

THE TIMES

The year a new world began:
John Terraine, page 8

Tory demand for Service pay increases accepted

The Government yesterday accepted a Tory private member's motion in the Commons that it should ensure a reasonable increase in pay for the Armed Forces and a substantial improvement in conditions, but only when pay policy permitted. Review body recommendations would be accepted, although any award might be phased in over a period if it breached pay guidelines.

Phased rises likely 'when policy permits'

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Genuine concern for the troops was liberally mingled with dollops of political opportunism as the Commons yesterday debated Services pay against a background of mounting unrest throughout the forces.

But after all the heated exchanges across the floor of the House, it was clear at the end of the day, as Mr Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told MPs, that there was no disagreement among political parties on the basic issue that Services pay should be restored to full comparability "as soon as pay policy permits".

He accepted the private member's motion of Mr Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, who initiated the debate, that the Government should ensure a reasonable increase in the remuneration of Servicemen and Servicewomen and a substantial improvement in their conditions of service.

Mr Gilbert pointed out that the present difficulties arose because of pay policy. He indicated that the Government would be accepting whatever recommendations on pay were made by the Armed Forces pay review body, although the award might have to be phased over a period if it did not come within the pay guidelines.

Earlier Mr Winston Churchill had spoken from the Tory front-bench of the Armed Forces "disintegrating before our very eyes", and of the gravest crisis since the end of the last war. Certain Labour MPs, he said, would like to see the Armed Forces weakened, demoralized, disintegrated and on their knees. The alarm bells were ringing but when he asked, would the Secretary of State wake up?

Mr Churchill pointed out that in seven years the Provisional IRA had failed to make as much as a pinprick effect in

Parliamentary report, page 3

the Armed Forces while the Secretary of State in seven months had demoralized the Army, not just in Northern Ireland but in all three fighting Services.

But for all Mr Churchill's flamboyant language, there was no recognition by him of the Government's dilemma over its pay guidelines, and barely a mention of what Conservatives would do in similar circumstances.

He spoke of unlimited free travel warrants, but for the rest Mr Churchill left it until the final sentence of his speech to urge the Government to give the commitment to restore at the earliest possible moment the fundamental basis of the military salary system, namely full comparability of pay.

Some weight was given to the poorly attended debate by the attendance, in a non-speaking role, of Mr Mulley, the Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Ian Gilmore, Conservative defence spokesman.

Mr Page spoke of the "raw deal" that Servicemen were getting in relation to their dangerous duties, and to the conditions in which they had to be carried out. There was mounting public concern and it was not good enough to tell soldiers that they could supplement their pay at a petrol pump or by selling pins in a pub.

From the Labour benches Mr. Welsh, QC, spoke of yesterday's "stunning article" in *The Times* and he urged the Government to pay attention to what was said: there about soldiers leaving the forces because they could not live on their pay.

Pay review idea, page 2

Lift men vote to end strike

Britain's oil engineers voted by 1,634 to 1,254 yesterday in favour of a return to work on Monday. Their pay strike began five weeks ago.

However, Mr Alfred McBrowne, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union official responsible for the liftmen, said some men may ignore the decision to return to work.

Parliamentary report, page 3

At South Kirkby colliery last month some men on incentive payments were earning about £120 a week until complaints from the National Union of Mineworkers stopped them.

At Newmarket, Suffolk, Mr Frank Ward, a branch official, said his members had the highest percentage in Yorkshire in favour of incentive schemes.

On November 1, he believed that any incentive payments should be backdated to then.

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agreed, "we are only a step away from the £155-a-week miner."

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He said his branch first asked for incentive schemes in the pit, which employs 640 men.

Mr Walsh said: "Whatever the rest of the country has I want our members to have."

A split appears to be developing in the ranks of Yorkshire miners who voted overwhelmingly in the recent national ballot against incentive payments.

At least two collieries, Glass Houghton, near Castleford, and Newmarket, Suffolk, near Wakefield, are strongly in favour of incentive bonus schemes as opposed to the views of Mr Alan Scargill, Yorkshire miners' president, who successfully led the campaign against incentives.

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HOME NEWS

Police computer files cover poaching and being suspected

By Stewart Tendler
Home Affairs Reporter

Convictions for offences such as poaching, vagrancy and being a suspected person are considered by the Home Office to be serious enough to warrant inclusion on the Police National Computer at Hendon.

The computer, which came into use in 1974, has greatly helped the police by providing a means for officers at the scene of a crime or holding a suspect to check convictions immediately by radio.

Last week Dr Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, was asked in a series of written questions in the Commons for details of the computer's contents. She replied that the computer holds records of 3.8 million offenders and details of 2.2 million sets of fingerprints.

She said the 3.8 million names were of "people convicted of more serious offences" but gave no explanation for the 1.6 million discrepancy between that figure and the total for fingerprints.

Some fingerprint collection is not on the computer but the Home Office and New Scotland Yard, which runs the computer, and the Criminal Record Office, say that an unspecified part of the 1.6 million discrepancy belongs to juveniles, who are not required to give fingerprints.

The rest comprised offenders convicted of offences that the courts did not consider serious enough to warrant fingerprinting or where offenders were convicted without having to appear in court.

The Home Office provides guidelines to police forces on

what is considered a "recordable offence" for manual records at the Criminal Records Office and for the computer.

The guide contains fewer offences than those listed annually in the criminal statistics but covers offences under common law as well as others, including the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, as amended by the Rabies Act, 1974, and the Game Act, 1831.

The offences include: possession of cannabis, election offences, criminal libel, vagrancy, harassment of others, incitement to disaffection, obstructing the police, offences against public order, offences under the Rent Act, being a suspected person, travelling on a railway without paying, wasting police time and violent behaviour in a police station.

Convictions for attempting, inciting, aiding or abetting any of the 53 categories of offences are also "recordable offences".

While the computer was being built, questions were raised about the amount of information that could be stored and its nature. In 1972 the Police Review said that once a person went on file in the computer his name would remain there until the police considered he had reached the age of criminal ineffectiveness or had died.

So far the system has cost more than £15m, and it is considered to be the largest in Europe. By the end of this decade up to 1,000 terminals will be provided linking Hendon with police stations. The computer has capacity for records of five million criminals.

Separate pay review urged for 'protectors of society'

By Our Political Correspondent

It is not wise or honourable to have a pay policy under which the men who protect society "feel increasingly that we are using moral blackmail to force them to accept a level of wages which falls behind that of the rest of the society", Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party and spokesman on home affairs, said at Ditchester last night.

He argued that political parties should seriously consider isolating those groups from the normal wage bargaining procedures which, with or without an incomes policy, would prevail in other sectors of the economy.

I believe that these groups should have a fixed relationship to national industrial earnings which the Government must guarantee," Mr Whitelaw, who was putting forward the considered view of the Shadow Cabinet, said.

Conservative leaders believed that some new proposal on those lines was needed to win back the confidence of people in the Armed Forces, the police and the fire service.

Of course this need not be a rigid formula," he said. Governments should always need to take into account the lack of manpower in a particular wage group. If enough policemen were not being recruited, for example, then their pay would have to be increased.

But those groups could not expect to receive exceptional treatment without a

forgoing some rights which other groups, who would not receive that treatment, enjoy, he said. "If the firemen wanted to claim parity with Armed Forces and the police over the kind of exceptional treatment offered to them by the Government, they should be prepared to relinquish the right to strike."

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, speaking at the annual dinner of the Bexleyheath Labour Party last night, again drove home the point that the union towards sustained economic growth would be reversed if the Government's 10 per cent limit on overall earnings was swerved by excessive wage settlements.

Wage earners were appreciating in real terms, he said, in fall in the rate of increase in prices and a cut in the income tax burden provided more real purchasing power than a bigger increase in the gross wage that was wiped out by rampant inflation.

He continued: "It is in this context that we have to view the firemen's dispute. Of course, they have a good case and it is most important that we agree a benchmark for them in the earnings table in the future."

Meanwhile, they should accept the 10 per cent as a limit applied to everyone and look forward to the fulfilment next year of their long-standing wish for a reduction in working hours from 48 to 42 hours a week."

Labour 'planning snap poll in a panic'

By Our Political Editor

The Labour Party was in a state of panic and Mr Callaghan has clearly made up his mind that Labour's only hope is to hold a snap election next spring or summer," Mr Angus Maude said last night.

The Conservatives' leading strategist and close adviser to Mrs Thatcher as deputy party chairman, Mr Maude envisioned the Government as desperate to plug the leaks as it electoral support drained away.

Speaking in Stockport, he said: "The Scots will be holding elections in May through the Commons, unless the wishes of many socialist MPs simply to try to save some Labour seats in Scotland from the SNP."

"Two days ago a party political broadcast concentrated a violent attack on the National Front, which has been gaining Labour votes in by-elections."

"The BBC is to provide for European elections, which the Government is bound by treaty and by the Prime Minister's personal promise to use its best endeavours to enact, has been deliberately held up for fear of alienating Labour voters opposed to the Common Market."

Mr Callaghan's only hope was to hold a snap election next spring or early summer, when pay packets are larger and taxes have been cut, but before the inflation rate and unemployment start rising again in the autumn."

Helicopter saves 8 trawermen

A British Airways helicopter last night rescued eight men in a 60 mph gale after an Aberdeen trawler ran aground and parted off the Shetland Isles. The vessel was holed, in George Bain, who towed the rescue operation.

"Conditions were atrocious; the sea was just in

time. It could have

Equity awaits cue on threatened theatre

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The occupation and subsequent takeover of the University Theatre in Newcastle upon Tyne by Equity, the actors' union, may have helped to prevent a repertory company on Tyneside. However, it looks as if the new company will be based in a different theatre.

When the Tyneside Theatre Trust was forced to close after losses of about £100,000 in the University Theatre, local Equity members were determined to keep the theatre open. The union started an occupation and eventually took a lease from Newcastle University for a 13-week season.

Equity's involvement in theatrical management has raised

some eyebrows in the union. A short season, using visiting companies and individuals, is expected to run from April to July.

The application for a repertory company has been whittled down to two, who are being interviewed today.

Whichever group is chosen, Northern Arts and the county council seem convinced that the 1,400-seat New Tyne Theatre will be a more suitable base than the University theatre, whose audience seats about 450 people.

Officials believe the University Theatre, despite its modern facilities, is too small to be financially viable. The New Tyne Theatre, despite its large auditorium, may still be spent on renovations, but the necessary space backstage and for audiences.

Measuring instrument for Moon fetches £11,500

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Eccentricities provided the top price for a set of scientific instruments, clocks and watches yesterday, which totalled £14,011, with 4 per cent unsold.

John Russell's seismograph, an instrument dating from 1797, made £11,500 (estimate £5,000 to £3,000), to Quartz. It is a globe representing the visible surface of the Moon and equipped with brass plates, but omitting the 35 plates of insects.

The sale of Old Master Pictures at the Fine Art Auctions paraded the best of London sales, with bidders going for beyond estimates on a few selected Dutch seventeenth-century works of special decorative quality.

A river scene on panel by Adam Willaerts' made 700,000 francs (£150,000 to £200,000 francs) estimate £150,000 to £200,000 francs).

Christie's yesterday held their 14th annual sale of Impressionist and modern art of a week which has seen a series of specialised sales in the field. The total was £59,990, with 35 per cent unsold.

The London dealers, Christie's, Bonhams and Sotheby's, in the St James's auctioneering enclosure, Epsom, in the Tate Gallery on Wednesday night, on behalf of Paul Mellon.

All the works in that sale appeared cheap; the Munning's sold at £6,800. Of the four paintings given by Mr Mellon for sale, the minimum price was £1,000, the maximum price which the Tate had set on them.

In Paris on Wednesday Adler & Picard held three important sales. At the first, Antwerp's auctioneers included a copy of Buffon's *Histoire Naturelle des Ossements* (10

vol.) in fine, published in Paris in 1770-75, at 225,000 francs or £55,561; on October 27 another copy made 155,000 francs in Paris. Wednesday's was a fine copy in a contemporary binding, with all the bird plates, but omitting the 35 plates of insects.

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Shop steward decline to attend inquiry

By Michael Bailey
Trade Reporter

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The Irish Tourist Board yesterday said that to meet the full claim would be the Government's earnings guidelines. The union, it adds, is seeking three days' extra annual leave.

A statement asserted that any disruption would put jobs seriously at risk and pointed to the closure of Hawley's, a big independent bakery, after the last strike.

The Scene section of The Sunday Times tomorrow presents a celebration of winter, and offers advice on how to survive, enjoy, understand and even love the months when sun and spirits are at a low ebb.

Meanwhile, they should accept the 10 per cent as a limit applied to everyone and look forward to the fulfilment next year of their long-standing wish for a reduction in working hours from 48 to 42 hours a week."

Mr Alan Thorncroft, the shop steward known as "the Mole", declined to attend a union inquiry in Oxford yesterday to answer allegations of bringing the union into disrepute.

Officially, Equity is likely to be dismayed by the news that the preferred solution is to put any new company into the New Tyne Theatre, which, despite its name, is more than a century old and used to be a cinema speciality. The New Tyne Theatre, until the building was taken over recently by amateur dramatic groups, has the necessary space backstage and for audiences.

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HOME NEWS

Minority groups get 2,000 more hostel places in £17m scheme

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Estimated wives, former psychiatric patients and the same homeless will get up to 2,000 more hostel places a year under an initiative announced yesterday by the Housing Corporation. It expects to spend about £1m next year on supporting hostel projects offering a significant amount of care to those who need it.

The initiative removes the barriers preventing the Housing Corporation from financing specialized hostel projects for minority groups, including former offenders. Until now, the corporation has been unable to approve more than a handful of such projects because they have involved a substantial element of support for residents, making them ineligible for housing association grants.

The Department of the Environment, which provides the finance for the corporation to draw on voluntary housing associations, has agreed to change the rules. Housing association can now develop hostel projects with a substantial amount of care provided the cost of "caring element" is met from other sources.

Housing associations will be able to apply for grants to develop purpose-built or rehabilitation schemes for disadvantaged groups in association with voluntary organizations, which will provide the specialist caring skills necessary for the tenants or residents of the projects.

The corporation expects to divert about 5 per cent of its budget to such schemes, more than ten times the amount it has been able to spend on them so far. The first requests for grants are expected in the spring, and the first scheme is expected to open in about eighteen months.

As well as providing capital grants for much needed hostels, the initiative could result in more physically handicapped people being able to leave residential homes and patients in psychiatric hospitals being able to return to the community.

Thousands of people are in homes and hospitals only because there is no accommodation available in the community where they can receive the support they need.

The initiative comes after a week of growing concern expressed by the local civic society, the representative of the five main government departments involved, agreed that a change was needed. Mr Robin Holmes, head of the housing policy division at the Department of the Environment, emphasized yesterday that hostels could never form more than a tiny proportion of overall housing provision.

People prefer self-contained accommodation and that still makes sense in housing terms, he said. "We are really talking about hostels providing a subsistence degree of care, but not a high degree of residential care which must be a social services responsibility."

Milk to go up 1p a pint as pricing system changes

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent

The price of milk will rise by 1p a pint to 12½p on New Year's Day. It will be the first increase since last May and will mark the end of the three-year-old milk subsidy and the start of a new system for pricing milk under EEC rules.

Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, admitted yesterday that the rise would give farmers less than the Government had let them to expect. He was asked in April what the price in 1978 would be and said it would be 12½p a gallon.

Farmers would in fact receive only 49p or 50p, partly because of increased fuel, tax and coffee tax cut demand for them and therefore for milk, he said. He believed that dairy farmers had enjoyed their best year for profits in real terms since 1972.

His decision was immediately criticized by the farming and milkmen's lobbies for opposite reasons. The Milk Marketing Board said: "The housewife will pay more to cover the loss

of the consumer subsidy and increased distribution costs."

The minister effectively reduced the producer's return over the four months from December to April by about 2½ pence.

Mr Henry Plumbe, president of the National Farmers' Union, said that the rise would damage confidence on dairy farms. He called for a new way of calculating farm prices.

The Dairy Trade Federation, which represents milk distributors, said the rise in retail prices was too high. Mr John Owens, the director-general, said the price should be frozen at 12½p until the autumn of next year.

The January rise might stop the recovery from low consumption that had just begun.

On New Year's Day the transitional period of British membership of the EEC and present ways of pricing milk and other farm produce will end. "There are quite a lot of farmers who do not understand that the guarantee arrangements are going to end on December 31," Mr Silkin said.

The two price rises, both increases and decreases, for years ago, when Worcester was enjoying an economic boom, the main debate was over the destruction of historic areas of the city to make way for new offices, shopping precincts and car parks.

Mr McJarrow Nixon, a lecturer at Cheltenham School of Architecture and former chairman of the Worcester Civic Society, concedes that the peninsula is "an eyesore".

He maintains that it is still not strong enough, and attributes the decay of the city's architectural heritage to indifference by the council. "They say it's service to the idea of conservation," he says, "but you can deteriorate something simply by ignoring it."

Mr Nixon became chairman of the civic society in 1974 after a heated annual meeting at which activists claimed that the society had failed to fulfil its original aims.

They were supported by Mr Timothy Conolly of the Civic Trust, who wrote at the time to the society urging it to take a stronger line in opposing the demolition of historic buildings.

However, a walk through the city centre today, past old and new buildings festooned with "For Sale" and "To Let" signs, suggests a deeper

lack of interest in the city's heritage has been demonstrated by the restoration of the Commandery.

Mr Trevor Wade, editor of the Evening News, which has strongly supported the conservationists, argues that physical decay and economic decline are closely related. "Progress is synonymous with conservation, not opposed to it," he says. "The two go hand in hand."

The council considers that the civic society's survey was "cursory". Its interest in the city's heritage has been demonstrated, the council says, by the restoration of the Commandery.

Probation for man who was eight years in Rampton

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Turkey farmers opened their traditional season of high turnover yesterday by saying that "retailers are giving housewives a £4.5m Christmas present". So stated Mr Raymond Twiddle, chairman of the British Turkey Federation, at a reception in London to find the heaviest turkey.

He was referring to the use of frozen turkeys in the price war with which supermarket companies are trying to wrest shares of the declining consumer market for food from each other.

The plasticine of turkeys in the same weight categories as sliced bread and washing powder alarms butchers. They expect to sell turkeys at 50p a pound or little more, while some supermarkets offer them at little or no profit for the wholesale price of 46p or 47p a pound.

Fears for Worcester's architectural heritage

Empty buildings and signs of urban disease worry conservationists

From John Young

Planning Reporter

Worcester

"Worcester is an ailing city, showing no signs of early recovery... its population is dropping, its historic heritage is descending into decay, its business and trade are falling away, tourists and shoppers are defecting to other more welcoming towns..."

Such words appearing as editorial comment in the local Evening News last year might at first glance appear unduly pessimistic. Despite hideous traffic difficulties which appear to have been exacerbated rather than relieved by a实行 one-way system, Worcester remains an extremely attractive and cosmopolitan place in which to live and ones in which even the drabdest December days are bright.

But earlier this year, the newspaper's gloomy prognosis was supported by a survey published by the local civic society. It maintained that more than half the properties in the city centre were completely or partially empty. A total of 261 out of 496. Of these 261, more than 100 were listed as of historic or architectural interest.

In addition, concern about Worcester's plight began to increase more than merely parochial time. Conservationists are worried about the threat the disease poses to many of the 900 listed buildings in the city, but there is also a fear that the urban disease that has afflicted places like Birmingham and Liverpool may be starting to infect smaller towns and cities.

The two points of both interest and concern. Ten years ago, when Worcester was enjoying an economic boom, the main debate was over the destruction of historic areas of the city to make way for new offices, shopping precincts and car parks.

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Council plans to move into its own county

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

It looks as though virtually everyone will have a turkey for Christmas. Mr Twiddle said: "Approximately 11.5 million turkeys will be eaten over the Christmas period."

For those who would spend Christmas alone and do not need a whole turkey the federation has invented "turkey fingers" and "turkey wings". It received more than one million turkeys to be eaten in that form.

The heaviest turkey weighed 7lb 12oz, the same as the record reached in 1975. Twenty years ago the competition winner weighed less than 45lb.

"Such has been the progress in the turkey world that today the average person has to work only 20 minutes to purchase one pound of turkey meat," Mr Twiddle said. The comparable figure 25 years ago was two hours.

Food prices, page 14

BBC to present French TV news bulletins

News bulletins in French from France are to be broadcast on BBC 2. French viewers will see the bulletin the same evening.

The weekly broadcasts, called *Tele-Journal*, start on January 9. British viewers will see the 8pm news from TEL, the leading French news and current affairs channel. The transmissions are to be recorded by the Eurovision link.

Mr Terence Doyle, the producer, said: "We shall provide any necessary introduction, although the international events will already be familiar to British audiences. Seeing the way a French television channel handles the news will give a different perspective on world events, and insights into French home news stories."

Strasbourg plea on judge's case

Mr Winifred Ewing, Scottish National Party MP for Moray and Nairn, said yesterday that she will approach the European Parliament about Mr Peter Thomson, whose dismissal as Sheriff of South Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway, was upheld by the Commons this week.

She will raise the subject in Strasbourg next week with a view to having the case heard by the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Thomson was dismissed for political activities.

Runaway cow

A cow which went berserk after escaping from Salisbury castle marker yesterday crashed through the front window of a house and damaged furniture before being recaptured.

Mr Carr said that the latest

issue of *The Department of Employment Gazette* showed that 15 government departments were employing fewer disabled people than last year, with only two of the 30 departments meeting the 3 per cent quota imposed on private companies.

The Department of Employment was shown to be employing 189 fewer disabled people last month than a year ago.

Further, only one of the 32 London boroughs was meeting the quota and only one of the 53 county councils. None of the 16 nationalized industries is

meeting the quota, nor are any of the 14 regional health authorities.

Two thirds of the companies in the private sector are also failing to meet the quota, which says that companies employing more than 19 people must employ enough registered disabled people to make up 3 per cent of the workforce.

Mr Carr said that until the Government and other public authorities provided an example it was pointless to expect the private sector to do more for disabled people.

She is charged with murdering Jeanette Chalk and Edith Ansell, both aged 84, in 1974, and "murdering" Charlotte French, aged 68, in 1975.

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WEST EUROPE

Mr van Agt begins talks with Dutch ministerial candidates

From Our Correspondent

Amsterdam, Dec 9
Mr Andries van Agt, who will be the new Dutch Prime Minister within a matter of days, today started formal interviews with Christian Democratic and Liberal candidates for his new centre-right Cabinet.

Mr van Agt will have the distinction of leading one of the most unexpected governments in Dutch parliamentary history. It was formed more than six months after the elections on May 25 in which, by Dutch standards, the outgoing Prime Minister, Mr Joop den Uyl's Labour Party won a landslide victory by gaining 10 seats in Parliament and becoming the largest political party.

There was general agreement that the result of the election could only be interpreted as a mandate for the continuation of the den Uyl left-of-centre coalition.

Mr den Uyl now will be the Leader of the Opposition, which in itself is unusual. Since the Second World War no outgoing Prime Minister has ever returned to Parliament to lead the Opposition.

Even the Dutch, used to the intricacies of forming viable, if sometimes unlikely, political combinations are somewhat confused by the present situation.

This is compounded by the fact that whereas it took Mr van Agt's Christian Democrats some five and a half months to decide that a coalition with the Socialists was out of the question, it took Mr. van Agt little more than two weeks of almost leisurely bargaining with the Liberals to reach almost total agreement.

In fact, Mr van Agt had more trouble with his own left wing,

of which seven members have refused to approve his pact with the Liberals, than he had with his present coalition partners.

It is obvious that Mr van Agt feels far more at home with the Liberals than with the Labour Party. While a clash of personalities is no doubt part of the reason why talks between the Christian Democrats and Socialists broke down, the basic stumbling block was mutual distrust.

The rapidity with which the Christian Democrats and Liberals managed to reach an agreement is partly due to the fact that much of the groundwork had already been done in the earlier talks with the Socialists party to the relative vagueness of the present pact, particularly in the emergence of the Liberals to government.

The distribution of portfolios in the new Cabinet (Christian Democrats 10, Liberals six) also reflects the fact that while the Liberals managed to climb from 22 to 28 seats in the May elections and are now the third largest party, they are far behind the Christian Democrats who, with 49 seats, gained only one.

It is expected that Mr van Agt's Government will survive for the time being in the legislature if its policies are not too controversial.

This may prove to be difficult as violent street demonstrations need to be taken over more than eight months of caretaker government. The Socialist opposition is however expected to tread softly, at least until the country's political temperature is taken next March when provincial elections will take place.



The Northern Ireland peace campaigners, Miss Mairead Corrigan (left) and Mrs Betty Williams, arriving at Oslo airport to receive the Nobel peace prize at a ceremony in Oslo University today.

£650m EEC plan for Mediterranean farms

From Michael Hornsby

Rome, Dec 9
A proposal to spend £650m over five years from the beginning of 1979 on modernising and restructuring Mediterranean agriculture to meet the challenge of further enlargement of the EEC was unveiled here today by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture.

The Commission's proposals are aimed mainly at modifying the French and Italians who have indicated that their approval for Greek, Spanish and Portuguese membership will depend on getting satisfactory assistance for their farmers in facing competition from the newcomers.

At the same time, Mr Gundelach announced the Commission's farm price proposals for the 1978-79 crop year. These envisage an overall increase of 1.8 per cent in common prices, which it is estimated would raise food prices by 0.5 per cent on average and the cost of living by 0.1 per cent.

The real price increase received by farmers would vary greatly from one country to another, however, because of adjustments to the specific "green rates" used to convert units of account, in which the common prices are expressed, into national currencies.

The Commission is proposing that all member states should accept a minimum one-seventh reduction next year of the gaps between the "green" rates and market values of their currencies. In Britain's case, this would give farmers an extra 3.25 per cent price to producers.

The increases, for other countries would be as follows: West Germany, 0.8 per cent; Benelux, 1.8 per cent; Ireland, 2.3 per cent; France, 3.9 per cent; and Italy, 4.1 per cent.

These figures are based on the gap between "green" and market rates existing at the end of last month.

Mr Gundelach made it clear that the Commission reserved the right to propose much bigger adjustments to "green" rates before EEC agriculture ministers meet next week in February or March next year. Ministers will get their first look at the proposals next week.

One of the most controversial proposals is the 2 per cent price rise for milk.

Among the package of Mediterranean measures are irrigation schemes in southern Italy; replanting vineyards with higher quality vines and conversion of marginal vineyard acreage to other uses in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France; improvement of marketing and distribution; and infrastructure projects.

Also envisaged are a number of market measures costing some £100m a year including subsidies to olive oil producers, aids to fresh fruit and vegetable processors to enable them to form cooperatives and subsidies to fruit and vegetable processors, on condition that they guarantee a minimum price to producers.

Pope opens door to East and West

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Dec 9
The recent meeting here of bishops from West and East Europe has highlighted a remarkable few days in relations between the Vatican and the European nations.

These meetings coincided with the papal visit to the Pope of Mr Gierszak, the Polish party leader. It took place immediately after two optimistic lectures on defence and Europe delivered in Austria by Mar Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican foreign relations expert.

The lectures in turn followed a sermon and speech on European unity by Cardinal Beaumel, the Archbishop of Florence, at Ottobeuren, Bavaria, in September. The Cardinal, one of the Pope's closest advisers, argued that the Christian religion was the only possible basis for a future united Europe.

Mr Casaroli, speaking at Lira University, said the EEC with favour and had good relations with it. However the Holy See saw it as only a partial union,

and looked forward to a "more ample union" in the future.

On this Mr Casaroli made much of the Helsinki conference which he called the first concrete example of "unity of Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals". The Helsinki protocol tended to overcome pragmatically the ideological split in Europe.

Addressing the Foreign Policy Association in Vienna, he said that relations in relations between the Vatican and a number of communist states were now reduced.

The outstanding example of this relaxation is in relations with Poland. There can be no doubt of the importance of Mr Gierszak's visit on December 1, the first by a Polish party leader to the Vatican.

The Pope promised to support the Polish regime's efforts and to meet the country's economic and social problems while Mr Gierszak publicly recognised the Pope as a great figure in contemporary history. He also left the impression at the Vatican that he sympathised with the Eurocommunist views of

the Italian Communists.

On this Mr Casaroli made

much of his relations with the Soviet Union.

The Vatican feels that Poland is the East European country most deserving encouragement and support in playing a bigger role in international affairs.

Mr Gierszak's presence in Moscow for the twentieth anniversary of the Russian Revolution shortly before coming to Rome is taken to mean that the Soviet Union is keen to keep the Pope in touch with the Roman Catholic Church.

In his Vienna lecture Mr Casaroli placed these relations in a wider context by expressing his belief that improvements in relations between the communist world and the Holy See could only favour a more general détente.

The new emphasis on a vigorous Vatican foreign policy suggests that Pope Paul VI, who has been absorbed by foreign policy all his life, may be looking on the European design as the impressive coda to his pontificate.

Investigations culminated

with a police raid on the sect's

temple at Schloss Rittershof in

Seamen's strike

threat to

Channel sailings

Paris, Dec 9
French seamen today decided to halt

French ferry services between

France and England on Monday and Tuesday.

Union sources said they would also

try to stop boarding and landing

of non-French ships.

Please help us to make

ends meet with a legacy.

Deed of Covenant or Donation

or Donation

INCURABLE

-but enjoying life
thanks to your help

Despite the effect of progressive

paralytic disease, our patients

learn to derive the greatest

possible enjoyment from life

in the hamelie

surroundings we provide.

Please help us to make

ends meet with a legacy.

Deed of Covenant or Donation

or Donation

BHII

We are not State aided.

The British Home & Hospital for Incurables
Crown Lane, Streatham, London SW16 3JE.
Patron: HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Leaves hospital

Bonn, Dec 9
Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, was discharged from hospital here to day after two weeks

Lisbon search for Cabinet

From Our Own Correspondent

Lisbon, Dec 9

President Eanes of Portugal

has begun talks in an attempt

to find a new Government after

the fall of the Socialist Govern

ment led by Dr Mario Soares

yesterday.

After consultations with

leaders of the three leading

non-socialist parties yesterday

he received the single deputy of

the National Democratic Union

Party, who also voted against

the Socialists, this morning.

President Eanes is also seek

ing advice from the Council of

the Revolution, an advisory

body set up to give him counsel

on constitutional and national

matters. The council is a sort

of watch committee appointed

to guarantee fidelity in the

spirit of the revolution of April

25, 1974. The President attend

ed its weekly meeting this

afternoon.

M Giscard d'Estaing

Paris, Dec 9
President Giscard d'Estaing, who has

made it an occasional practice

to dine with an ordinary

French family, was the guest

of M Jean Marie, a headmaster

and his teacher wife at Mount

morning last night.

M Giscard d'Estaing

with teachers

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President Giscard d'Estaing, who has

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of M Jean Marie, a headmaster

and his teacher wife at Mount

morning last night.

The trial is expected to last

about six months.

OVERSEAS

Israel hopes Mr Vance will persuade more Arabs to go to Cairo

From Edward Mortimer

Jerusalem, Dec 9

My Cyrus Vance, the

American Secretary of State

is expected here tomorrow night

on the second leg of his Middle

East tour. As he will be coming

from Cairo, Israeli officials are

hoping he will give them a

clearer idea of the agenda the

Egyptians are expecting to dis

cuss at the Cairo conference,

which opens on Wednesday.

Mr Vance's trip is seen here

as having two main purposes:

to reaffirm American support

for Egypt's efforts in seeking

peace with Israel through direct

negotiations and to widen

the circle of Arab parties

involved.

Israeli ministers will tell Mr

Vance that their delegates will

be taking to Cairo three basic

issues: A draft treaty between

Israel and Egypt

and American participation

in the peace process.

On substantive issues,

the Israelis are unwilling to be

drawn into promising specific

commitments in advance of

the negotiations.

Officials emphasise

that they are likely to be

very flexible on the issue of

territorial borders with Egypt,

and will make every effort to

find a positive formula on the

Palestinian problem in the West

Bank and the Gaza Strip com-

pared with Israel's security.

But they do not expect rapid

progress at the Cairo talks so

long as they remain at official

OVERSEAS

Patriotic anthem sung at end of Romanian Communist conference

From Deesa Tsvetanov
Bucharest, Dec 9

Two thousand five hundred Romanian Communist Party delegates sang their country's new patriotic national anthem at the end of their conference today. They had just endorsed President Ceausescu's programme for re-building Romania's economic independence of the Soviet Union by maintaining a high rate of industrialisation over the coming eight years.

Sanctioned by Parliament last month, the anthem, the greater Mr Ceausescu's determination to restore traditional patriotism: the music as well as the words built from the minstrels' century. In the fifties the song became taboo but it was recently revived with two more verses added on glorifying Romania's present and future under Communism.

The conference did not bring any radical changes but, if shown, perhaps for the first time, a growing awareness of popular discontent evident as the result of the strike last August in the Jiu Valley coal-mines.

The high rate of industrial growth and investment, which is of the highest in Europe, will be sustained. At the same time, efforts are to be put in to increase, gradually, reductions of the working week from 48 to 44 hours, higher pensions and child allowances as well as a modest increase in production of consumer goods. These all show that Mr Ceausescu is planning to achieve his long-term ambitions with his finger on the public pulse.

Romania, which started its post-war history with an artisanal base, has now become a major industrial power. It has a large number of state-owned enterprises, some dealing with defence. But in view of the present public attitude it is difficult to see how this plan could be reconciled with a more lenient penal system.

While there now seems to be an intention to add a more distinct Romanian flavour to socialism at home, President Ceausescu again reiterated his country's independence in foreign policy issues.

Officially today briefly detained two Western journalists—Swedes and an American—and confiscated material by dissenting Romanian writers.

They were Klas Bergman of

Dagens Nyheter, Stockholm, and Gustav Chafupa, a radio correspondent, Reuter.

Peking plea for serious action to end pollution

From Our Correspondent
Hongkong, Dec 9

The Peking People's Daily has published a survey of readers' letters on pollution in China, ranging from noise to noxious gases.

"Some comrades have not paid enough attention to problems of this kind and view them as minor matters," the party newspaper said.

Criticizing the factory managers responsible, the newspaper said: "When the masses demand solutions to these problems, they emphasize the difficulties they face and use them as a pretext to allow public opinion."

Five people killed

Brown Hills, Dec 9.—Five people belonging to the same family were killed by lightning in a remote district, Singida region of Tanzania yesterday.

Korchnoi heads for victory over Spassky

Brighton, Dec. 9.—Victor Korchnoi appeared to be heading for victory when his seventh chess game against Boris Spassky was adjourned tonight.

Raymond Keene, his British second, said Korchnoi would have no trouble in winning if he is resumed tomorrow. Victory would give him a 5-2 lead in the 20-game match to decide who will challenge Anatoly Karpov, the world champion.

Korchnoi, playing white, surprised his opponent with an unusual eleventh move in a Queen's Gambit. Later he destroyed Spassky's position with a temporary rook sacrifice and ended a pawn up.

Girl given pig's heart

Brown Hills, Dec. 9.—New Jersey doctors have replaced a girl in the heart of Shakila Razak, a 10-year-old Pakistani girl, with one from a pig.

Mr Desai joins Nepal pilgrims

From Richard Wigg
Kathmandu, Dec 9

The sight of thousands of pilgrims gathered at one of Nepal's most sacred Hindu temples greeted Mr Morari Desai, the Indian Prime Minister, when he started a two-day official visit here today.

Peasants, wearing heavy winter clothes but usually barefoot, had flocked to the massive bronze domed temple from the surrounding countryside to celebrate Baisakhtastami, the day when Hindus honour their ancestors.

Mr Desai, a Hindu Prime Minister visiting the world's only Hindu kingdom, went straight to the temple after the welcoming ceremony at the airport.

Watched by pilgrims he descended from a sleek Mercedes, took off his shoes, donned special red slippers, and was taken for prayers to the silver-domed inner temple with its four-fold image of

Lord Shiva, where priests from south India greeted him.

On the hillsides looking down on the temple and over a curving river, pilgrims were breaking candles to their ancestors in the temple. As darkness fell the hills were a mass of worshippers' candles.

Mr Desai's visit is potentially of great importance to the region. The Janata Government is seeking closer relations with neighbouring countries and Nepal occupies a key position in the region.

The Nepalese hope the visit may bring the political decision needed to put their landlocked country's transit and trade alignment with their giant neighbour on a more favourable footing.

One of the main objectives to be discussed by Mr Desai with King Birendra and Mr K. N. Bista, Nepal's Prime Minister is what arrangements should replace the 1950 Indo-Nepalese treaty which put Nepal's foreign trade under Indian supervision. The treaty expired almost 18

months ago and talks at experts' level have not produced agreement.

Nepal's overseas trade passes through Calcutta, 500 miles to the south, where it is subject to Indian controls. This year, however, India allowed 20,000 tonnes of Nepalese rice to go to Bangladesh direct. This has encouraged Nepal to seek a corridor arrangement.

The leaders were as Señor José Mayer and Colonel Jorge Echazar, who were said to be trying to halve preparations for next year's general election.

In brief

Bolivia foils Falange plot

La Paz, Dec. 9.—The Bolivian military government today said it had foiled an attempted coup by leaders of the "Bolivian Socialist Falange" and the colonel commanding the country's most important regiment, an official source said.

The leaders were as Señor José Mayer and Colonel Jorge Echazar, who were said to be trying to halve preparations for next year's general election.

Moroccans fly in

Nouakchott, Dec. 9.—A first batch of 600 Moroccan troops, sent to bolster Mauritanian soldiers guarding the railway between the northern mining town of Zouerate and the port of Nouadhibou last night. A total of 1,200 Moroccan troops are to be stationed alongside the railway line.

Injured Briton dies

Nicosia, Dec. 9.—Mr Jack Flawn, a 55-year-old meteorologist from Woking, Surrey, has died from injuries he received when a United States Air Force U2 reconnaissance aircraft crashed here while flying on a mission on Wednesday. His death brings to six the number of people killed.

Aegean earthquake

Ankara, Dec. 9.—An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale hit the Aegean city of Izmir, Turkey, this evening, injuring 35 people. Houses and public buildings were damaged. All those hurt were at reserve officers' training school in the suburb of Gaziemir, where students were trampled as they tried to rush out of the building.

Party in control

Vienna, Dec. 9.—The Czechoslovak Writers' Union, disbanded seven years ago after the Soviet-led invasion to overthrow the Dubcek regime, has been re-established under Communist Party control at a two-day congress in Prague.

Diplomatic exchange

Johannesburg, Dec. 9.—Botswana and Cubans are to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported.

New ship hits reef

Tel Aviv, Dec. 9.—The crew of the Israeli container ship Jasmin were rescued by Navy helicopter today after the ship, on its maiden voyage, struck a reef 40 miles east of Cyprus and was listing dangerously.

Civil servants challenge Delhi Cabinet over arrest

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, Dec 9

An "internal dispute" between the Indian Government and senior civil servants is building up. The resentment among the civil servants has been simmering since October when Mr B. V. Vohra, a Government secretary, was arrested and suspended after a deal with France in which Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, was alleged to have been involved.

Mr Vohra is said to have signed a contract to buy technical knowledge from a French oil company for \$1m (£75m) in preference to an American one which demanded only \$4m.

Mr Vohra belongs to the Indian Administrative Service, which replaced the Indian civil servants of the British Raj.

Although Mr Wali Khan and 13 others were granted bail on Wednesday by the special court, for the first time in nearly three years, he was not released immediately. He was said to have been involved in 10 other cases registered against him during the rule of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister.

Mr Wali Khan, wife of the opposition leader, speaking by telephone from her village in remote Charsadda Tehsil, said that Mr Wali Khan and five other Pathan leaders were flown by government aircraft from Karachi to Peshawar after midnight. She rushed on short notice to greet her husband at an Air Force base.

Mr Wali Khan was released after the Government had decided to withdraw numerous other charges against him.

Heyerdahl reed vessel is towed into Bahrain

Manama, Bahrain, Dec. 9.—The reed ship of Mr Thor Heyerdahl, the Norwegian explorer and anthropologist, was moored in Bahrain today after running aground, losing both its rudders and being towed nearly the whole length of the Gulf by a Russian cargo ship.

The ship, the Tigris, limped into port last night behind a Bahraini coastguard cutter, which picked it up from the Russian ship.

On the first leg of his voyage to trace the sailing routes of the ancient Sumerian mariners

of Mesopotamia, Mr Heyerdahl and his 10-man crew of mixed nationalities were plagued by navigational problems, including the loss of both rudders.

Mr Heyerdahl, who is 63, hopes to obtain the advice of Bahraini dhow sailors in order to master the art of sailing the 54ft Tigris before setting off on the second leg of the voyage to Oman and then the Indian Ocean.

The Sumerian civilization flourished in what is now Iraq about 6,000 years ago.—UPI

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SPORT

Racing

Forcing tactics of Tip The Wink are expected to tip the balance

By Michael Seely

A full dress rehearsal for the Festival meeting will be staged at Cheltenham this afternoon. The Gold Cup winner, Royal Froik, will be attempting to make a triumphant comeback by defeating 12s 4lb in the Massy-Ferguson Gold Cup. Despite the remarkable record of high class horses in this race, Sir John Bammer's eight-year-old may not yet be sharp enough to prove the theory. Tip The Wink, Young Ardent and the northern stayer, Current Gold,

Ridden by the top jockey, Désiré Hughes, Tip The Wink is revelling in the mud, hammered into his opponents since the ground in the Cheltenham Gold Cup in last year's National Hunt meeting. In sport's National Hunt meeting, he recorded a fast time when slammimg Kas in the Embassy Steeplechase at Cheltenham last week. Pat Taylor has shown his soundness in his placing of Tip The Wink.

Although the ground may not be soft enough to show Tip The Wink at his sparkling best, the galloping is difficult to oppose at these weights. Judged strictly on past records, the runner-up, Karaman Park, Young Ardent, has the best of Tip The Wink. But on both those occasions Tip The Wink was ridden from behind instead of opposite his usual front.

Admetus, David Naylor's eight-year-old up my most en-

couraging performance when narrowly defeated by Another Dolly at Newbury and should go close this afternoon.

Tip The Wink, Current Gold is in his best on a yielding surface. Four times a winner last season, Gordon Richards' six-year-old still has further improvement in him. He has been running in the Mackintosh Gold Cup coming from a long way back to finish third to Bachelor's Hat. Current Gold is probably at his most effective over three miles and his appearance over hurdles at Newmarket last week will suit him admirably. This is a race choc full of talent.

Uncle Bingley won last season in a blaze of glory, capturing three of the four races in the Midlands' Mildred's Fifer Challenge Cup under top weight on this course in March. The Irish chaser, Siberian Sun had an easy

victory by five lengths at Naas recently but having finished second to Tip The Wink at level weights last March, the six-year-old should not be able to give him weight today.

Neville Crump's Even Melody is a bold and consistent type. Already successful in North and Ayr this season he ran beneath the best race of his career when chasing home Bachelor's Hat in the Mackintosh. But none the worse for his mishap at Ayr last time and is taken to beat Fred Rimell's much improved Another Dolly. Ballet Lord, Billed Doux II and Diamond Edge are three other notable newcomers who have won over fences in great style this season. Lingfield Park also features a first class card provided that the fixture is not cancelled due to further rain.

John Hughes' clerks of the courses and "Today" has had a fine day and racing continues to gain momentum. The weather has taken its toll, however, there is considerable overnight rain as forecast, an inspection will be necessary at 7.30 tomorrow morning.

The 65,000-pondshire Lingfield Handicap Hurdle may go to Joss Gifford's much improved four-year-old Kybo. Despite his sharp run in the weight after his Ascot victory, Kybo is a most amiable and loving Traquair and Pheasant's Handicaps, which Dick Francis' Handicap Steeplechase with Ballinie who finished well in the Hennessy Gold Cup. The Bury St Edmunds trainer can complete a double with Havanna in the Embassy Steeplechase at Cheltenham yesterday. Night Nurse also takes third in last year's championship and who showed himself to be in peak condition when strolling from John Clerc at Ascot. But the runner-up, Karaman Park, Young Ardent, has the best of Tip The Wink. Both on both those occasions Tip The Wink was ridden from behind instead of opposite his usual front.

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Zongalero the favourite, leads Never Rock over the last fence before winning the Tony Teacher Steeplechase at Cheltenham yesterday.

Zongalero gains gallant victory for joint owners at Cheltenham

By Michael Seely

Zongalero galloped a gallant victory for his joint owners, David Montagu and Sir James Goldsmith when outstaying Never Rock and Royal Marshal II in the Tony Teacher Handicap Steeplechase at Cheltenham yesterday. Double Negative and Broncho II disputed the early lead until Broncho II dropped back, beaten a mile from home.

At the penultimate fence Zongalero jumped to the front, hotly pursued by Never Rock, with Royal Marshal II poised to overtake. The 10-year-old's speed looked sure to succeed, but half way up the run to his challenge petered out. Zongalero ran on strongly to beat Never Rock by two lengths with Royal Marshal II a quarter of a mile away third.

The Joe Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier was won in runaway style by the well-handicapped Hemmings. The Irish challenger, Parkinson, cut out the early pace, then took the lead and went up the final hill to score by seven lengths. Hemmings was ridden by Philip Hobbs and trained by Herbert Payne at Wells. All being well, Hemmings will be tooted here for the final in March.

Fred Rimell saddled Cheltenham Festival to land a gamble in the Bath Novices' Steeplechase. Jumping like a buck, Charles Hambro on his six-year-old son, Night Teacher, pushed Gels Lad into the lead. Gels Lad's victory provided Tindler with his eleventh win of the season.

Jones said that Zongalero was

a much-hailed animal, as he has taken time to develop his full strength, but he hopes it will now win more races. Casanayor, who started four furlongs with the winner at 7 to 2, was toiling a long way behind. His trainer, Peter Blakemore, attributed Broncho's poor showing to the going. The jockey said that the runner were cutting in a few inches, but the surface was still.

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Line Shooter, the started joint favourite with the winner, did not enjoy himself when put under pressure and finished a well-beaten third. But his trainer, Fulke Walwyn, continued: "I would like to thank Michael Dickinson for giving me No Defence in the Kingston Opportunity Handicap Steeplechase. Another Lamour trainer, Richard Head, received encouragement from his owner, Mr. G. C. Williams, in the aftermath of his big race, when Head ran out an unchallenged winner of the second division of the Bristol Novices' Hurdle."

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (cont'd) Spain: Laquer.

Saturday Review



Photomontage: Trevor Sutton

The year a new world began

By John Terraine

The idea of the pre-1914 world as a kind of "golden age" has unquestionably been overtaken. The years 1900-1914 simmered with agitation, volcanic movements shaking the fabric... of society. Every one of the advanced industrial countries was affected: in Britain, between 1910 and 1912, dockers, miners, railwaymen and transport workers were constantly on strike; Ben Tillet, the dockers' leader, called it "a great upsurge of elemental forces". Equally elemental were the women's revolutionaries expressing the violence of the Suffragette Movement, and the Irish Home Rule struggle with its threat of actual civil war. In France, between 1906 and 1910 strikes were so frequent, so violent, so revolutionary in character that mobilisation of the strikers into the army proved the only respite against them. In Germany, the Marxist Social-Democrats became the largest party in the Reichstag. Less advanced countries were even more seriously affected: revolution in Russia in 1905, and in Spain in 1909, the year of Barcelona's "Semana Trágica". All this ferment was duly reflected in avant-garde art: French Fauvism, German Expressionism, Italian Futurism, with its pregnant manifesto: "There is no beauty except in strife". If this was a "golden age" we need to revise our vocabulary.

Nevertheless, it was an age very far removed from our own. The fact that it was not "golden" does not mean that it was not different; so different, indeed, in its manners, its beliefs, its techniques, its dress, so innocent in its experience compared with later generations, that it hardly belongs to the twentieth century at all. When we look at the people of 1900, or 1905, or 1914, we look at strangers; these, truly, are ancestors rather than parents or grandparents. Many of them, I dare say, still alive today, can scarcely recognize themselves. In fact, if we seek the first translation of the symptoms of our own world into reality, we shall not go back 77 years, but 60: we shall look at 1917.

First, just to make sure, let us regard its immediate predecessors. It is my belief that the old world, the old nineteenth-century world, lingered on right into 1913. Even the

its predecessor, had been "golden". Picture it came in with stage effects well suited to tragic drama. Snow, sleet and heavy frost descended on Europe in November 1916, ushering in one of the worst winters on record: it was to maintain its grip well into April 1917, by which time it had played a distinct and direct part in the vast changes now to unfold. In Germany, the premature frosts caused a catastrophic failure of the potato crop which in turn produced the "Turnip Winter" of hideous memory, which in its own turn planned the seeds of revolution in the far-distant future.

In Russia, that result ensued without delay: heavy snowfalls caused a transport breakdown, leading to food shortages and bread riots which turned quickly into revolution and the fall of the Imperial regime. We may as well start there; this was the first clear sign of the new world, the arrival of the twentieth century.

What happened in Russia in 1917 is unquestionably the most significant formative factor of this century. In the creation of the world's first communist state, scale was everything: it was not yet proven that this, too, was an obsolete figment of nineteenth-century imagination, and that the future belonged to the frail, often ludicrous-looking heavier-than-air machines.

On this analysis—which goes deeper than mere outward appearances—it was 1916 that saw the death-throes of the old world. In 1916 there was a change of style, a hardening of attitudes, new men with set expressions on their faces took the reins into their hands. 1916 has been called "the year of killing", which is not a bad name for it. The great battles of attrition, the normal "wastage" (what a word!) and various "side-shows" cost the three leading Western European nations nearly 3,000,000 casualties in that year: Germany, 1,400,000; Britain, 666,000. Certainly 1916 killed off most of what was left of nineteenth century attitudes and values. The world was never going to be the same after this.

So with a good deal of the old world now a ruin, we find a new world beginning in 1917 that was no more "brave" than

Thomas, visited Pergamon shortly after the revolution, and according to Sir Edward Spears:

Not understanding a word of the language, he went with enthusiasm to all the speeches he heard, to the toasts, the ducats, water to the Russian national habit of kissing on the mouth, and on one occasion kissed two hundred popes (Orthodox priests) with unabated zest!

It was the greatest tragedy of the year and of the century that this hopeful excitement turned out to be entirely misplaced, and that freedom in Russia was snatched shortly after birth—but that was yet to come.

Already, however, other unshakable ingredients of the twentieth century were determining its texture. It is a century in which technology has increasingly taken command—indeed, our profoundest tragedy is that artificial acceleration of technology due to two world wars which has so palpably outrun humanity's capacity to control the process. In 1917, of course, it was precisely the technology of war, and its transformation of two elements, that split the novelty, and in so doing brought into play the second dominating political force of the century: in that year submarine warfare and air warfare took on entirely new dimensions.

Submarine warfare had been a factor to reckon with since the beginning of the war; in 1915 it had achieved great notoriety through the sinking of the liner Lusitania, and all through 1916 it had been causing the British Admiralty and Government increasing concern. But it was in February, 1917, that Germany's unrestricted U-boat warfare began

—the very name has a ring of twentieth-century war because it is full of the passion it aroused had far-reaching consequences. Public anger at the Gotha raids demanded reprisals: a total of 6,623,623 tons of merchant shipping sunk in 1917, compare handsomely with the height of the Earle of the Atlantic, 1942, in which year 7,790,697 tons were sunk. So here, without doubt, was an ominous beginning; it will perhaps be the Soviet Union's present massive fleet of submarines that will supply the ending.

The transformation of war in Flying Fortresses of the Second World War, and their terrible successors, but is in one action of the Gotha-bomber Air Force that we find the first re-enactments for the firestorms of Hamburg, the ravaging of Dresden, and ultimately Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all that they imply. The coming of the Gotha was a coming of doom.

However, it was not merely in the long term that these technological strides brought their retribution, and put a stamp upon our age. The sinking of the Lusitania with the loss of about 100 American lives had done much to turn America against Germany; that unrestricted U-boat warfare would further alienate America, opinion was anticipated by the German High Command.

They were right. In February 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, on April 6 America declared war. The short-term consequences were mixed: Allied public opinion was, of course, greatly cheered, but it was with shock and dismay that the British Government learned of their mission to America that only about 150,000 Americans could be expected in France by the end of the year, and only about 500,000 by the end of 1918. As it turned out, the crisis of that year brought a considerable improvement on this programme, so that by the Armistice there were over 2,000,000 Americans in France. Yet it is also true that effective large operations by the Americans did not take place until several months after their entry into the war. On the other hand, the long-term consequence of their coming in is the second

political fundamental of the century: an involvement in European and world affairs it is able to dispense with.

In quick succession, they planted their imprint upon 1917 and upon the future. April, the month of America's declaration against Germany; out of this demand two things emerged—the creation of the Royal Air Force, and the setting up of an "Independent Air Force" which was, in fact, the initiator of the concept of a decisive strategic air offensive against industry and civilian morale. The force available and the types of aircraft of 1917-18 were puny by comparison with the massed squadrons of Lancasters and

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Continued from opposite page have found similar difficulty with the chief British military activity of the year.

The 1917 Flanders offensive, officially known as the Third Battle of Ypres, but generally referred to as "Passchendaele", was born under a shadow, and cast a long shadow before it. The British public and the Government, especially the Prime Minister, Mr Lloyd George, were still reeling from the unprecedented casualty lists of the Somme as 1917 came in; soon they were reeling again from the casualty lists of the Battle of Arras, fought in support of General Nivelle—150,000 in two months. It was thus with apprehension that the public,

and detestation that the Prime Minister, saw another great offensive begin in July. In truth, the Flanders offensive was nowhere near as costly as the Somme: the Flanders figures were 244,000 in three and a half months, whereas for the Somme the total was 415,000 in four and a half months. The rate of loss for both battles was to be steadily exceeded when the Germans attacked the British in 1918, but no one was to know that, and current home-front doctrine was that offensives were the most expensive way of making war.

When, at the end of it all, thanks largely to the vile weather of 1917, the army found itself only about six

miles forward, its last gain being the brick-coloured stain in the waste of mud that was all that remained of the village of Passchendaele, the sense of heroic futility was very great. The army itself, in the revolting swamps of the Ypres Salient, was certainly depressed; but the army had a better inkling than those at home of what had been happening to the enemy. His corpses could be counted; And the Germans had very little doubt about "Passchendaele": to them it was "the greatest martyrdom of the world war". They admitted that by the end of it "the German sword had become blunted"; as one contemplates what they were able to do even with a blunt sword in 1918, it

must be conceded that this was not much result. Yet down all the decades since, "Passchendaele" has been a source of horror in Britain, exercising a beneficial influence on Anglo-American strategy in the next war, and continuing to demoralize to this day.

While the great battle was still in progress the next large step into the future was taken: we need, however, to glance back once more to comprehend it fully. The March Revolution in Russia was a heaven-sent boon to Germany; the capitulation of Nivelle in April and May was also helpful, but Ludendorff frankly admits:

During these two months of 1917, in spite of our Aisne-Champagne victory, it was the Russian Revolu-

tion alone that saved us from serious trouble.

In July the Russians, urged on by their War Minister, Alexander Kerensky, launched their last offensive: it was quickly stopped, and the German counter-offensive produced a series of brilliant victories which did much to revive morale both in the Army and in the Fatherland. By the same token, they powerfully disheartened Russia, and lent added point to the anti-war agitation of the Bolsheviks. The crippling of Russia had a further important effect: it made possible a brief revival of Austria-Hungary. That empire had been brought to its knees by the end of 1916, under the hammer-blows of General

Brosilov; now its polyglot army could be pulled together and redeployed against the one enemy that all its component races hated—Italy.

The fruition of all these processes came in October, while the British Army was inching across the mud on the last mile-lap to Passchendaele. On October 24 the Austrians, with a small but highly effective German contingent which included the future Field-Marshal Rommel, struck the Italians at Caporetto. In the first week of their offensive they claimed 180,000 prisoners; by the end of the battle Italian losses were more than 300,000. Italy had never recovered from Caporetto. The disaster contributed directly to the semi-

revolutionary situation which produced Mussolini's Fascism and it planted the moral cancer which brought the Duke's dreams of power to dust. The miserable soul to the high hopes of the Risorgimento that we see in Italy today dates from October 1917.

And by the old Russian calendar the same month (November 7 by ours) brought the most important fact of our time: that close makes 1917 "Year One" of the twentieth century—but as we have seen, history was not content with only one sign. History laboured the point.

(*The Times*, specially written for *The Road to Passchendaele*, published by Oxford University Press in 1977. John Turtzine, Leo Cooper, £1.50.)

Left:
"The Duchess of Do-Good's Screen—an attractive subject to Tom, Logic and Jerry". Drawn and engraved by Robert Cruikshank.

Collecting Ephemeral scraps

Long before Brueghel and Max Ernst made the art of collage respectable to art historians that "discreet union of丑陋与美丽" as William Gaunt calls it in his book *The Surrealist*, had been perpetuated by the compilers of nineteenth-century scrapbooks, some of them mere children.

The scrapbook was in truth what the Surrealist collage set out to be: a sampling-flask of the subconscious. An artist such as Ernst might imagine that he was revealing his most covert feelings in collage, but there was a contrivance and self-consciousness about the exercise quite lacking in the Victorians' innocent spattering of pages with scraps.

The subconscious of an age rather than an individual can materialise from the pasted pages. For example, the short book of Victorian England is seen in scrapbook pages decorated with crests, coronets and monograms cut from envelope flaps or letter-headings. The romantic materialism of 1950s Britain is suggested by a boy's scrapbook of that period in which many of the scraps are cutouts of flashy American cars.

The history of scraps and scrapbooks is given by a Swedish writer, Elizabeth Ralf, in *Angels and Roses*, a short book now translated into English. This book concerns only the commercial—prefabricated scraps, sold in sheets ready for sticking in albums—not the perhaps more adventurous kind of scrapbook of which the contents are pünded from



newspapers, magazines and advertisements, giving a more immediate period flavour.

A collection of these ready-made scraps in mint condition, formed by Mr Alistair Allen, was on show at the Bethnal Green museum, London, earlier this year. The exhibition also contained a few of the screens which have been the alternative way of collecting scraps. The best-known "scrap screen" is Lord Byron's, now at the offices of his former publishers, John Murray's, and adorned, among other cut-outs, with a portrait of "Gentleman" John Jackson, the pugilist, with whom Byron used to spar in the other kind of scraps. "Be pasted me, and were I do paste him", as it were.

More recent makers of scrap screens include the writer Elizabeth Jenkins, who favours Victorians; Sir Frederick Ashton, whose theme naturally is the ballet; and Margaret Lane (Lady Huntingdon) whose first attempt has six panels, each with a dominant character—Dr Johnson, David Garrick, Lord Chesterfield, Dickens, Jane Austen and the Brontës. Miss Lane, who predicts a fashionable return of the scrap screen, recommends a lightweight frame made by a carpenter, the hollow panels covered with thin hessian, sail-cloth or stout calico.

I recently bought an early nineteenth-century engraving entitled *The Duchess of Do-Good's Screen—An Attractive Subject to Tom, Logic and Jerry*. Drawn and engraved by

Robert Cruikshank. Without knowing the book from which the print is taken, it is impossible to say for certain, but as the screen is crammed with designs of Red Indians, balloonists, guardsmen, archers and Regency dandies, it may well be a scrap screen.

Elizabeth Ralf writes: "It is difficult to give a precise date for the first appearance of scraps—defined as punched and embossed and varnished chro-

molithographs and sold in sheets or ones by one". But she speculates that the earliest scraps date from around 1865: the first steam-driven lithographic printing machine was patented in 1863, and the rotary press, machine-made paper and improved punching and embossing machines followed in the 1870s.

The embossing technique developed most rapidly in Germany. Reliefs were usually rosy cherubs with wings sprouting

from their shoulders. Other subjects included small girls riding doves festooned in roses; a parched soldier being given water by a native woman; common nursery rhyme figures; luscious fruit comparable to the wax variety that Victorians kept under glass domes; and cats and dogs in every imaginable pose.

Father Christmases and Christmas trees were fre-

quent, as embossed scraps were a simple ingredient of the made-up new stockings sold in toy shops. The scrap industry continued well into the twentieth century and among later subjects are early biplanes, again garlanded with roses or poinsettias and escorted by squadrons of bluebirds.

Some subjects are missing.

"Death is absent in this world," Elizabeth Ralf writes.

"War has been present from the very beginning; but judging from old album books and collections such scraps were not very popular."

Courtship was "the most beloved subject". But for young Germans there were "juicy murder stories" or "a fire-breath devil spanking a poor little boy".

One category not mentioned by Elizabeth Ralf is the market for coronets, monograms and crests. This began as a snobbish habit of snapping the crests and monograms from illustrious stationery and pasting them in an album to show off one's grand acquaintances.

By the 1870s this craze was of such dimensions that manufacturers began to make albums especially for the crest.

I recently bought for £7 in Chelsea one of these albums, almost certainly made in Germany. The blank pages were ready for use, with ornate nineteenth-century cartouches, etc. The title book, "Eliza Ralf's little book", is overpriced at £30.

If you prefer to make up your own scrapbook rather than collect other people's compilations of the past, Pollock's Toy Museum, 1 Scala Street, W.1 (near Goodge Street Underground station) sell a "Victorian" scrap album ready for use, with ornate nineteenth-century cartouches, etc. The title book, "Eliza Ralf's little book", is overpriced at £30.

Bevis Hillier

Drink

The accessories

Presents for wine lovers are easy to choose. No one ever buys enough of plain linen glass, cloths, goblets or tulip glasses—cheap and in quantities for parties, one or two in crystal for private pleasure. No one will be other than delighted with an extra corkscrew, though donors should take care to avoid the type that are more like gimlets or bradwads, with sharp edges screwing ended in a point; these merely pierce and break the cork.

The good corkscrew has a rounded spiral ending in a curve, that will hold the cork firmly. David Mellor, 4 Sloane Square, London, SW1, have a large selection of corkscrews—unfortunately some being the unsatisfactory kind. But they have the boxwood type, which is very easy to use (£1.77), the "Waiter's Friend" with knife, bottle opener and hook for prising up sparkling wine corks (£2.05) and a stopper-stopper, which put into a wine—of still or sparkling wine—and then operated by a lever, so that the wine is sealed. This is especially useful because it will stopper magnums and large bottles as well as the standard size; it costs £1.12.

Henry Collison, 7 Burry Street, St James's, London, SW1, have a range of good inexpensive glasses, including "flutes" for sparkling wines (£6p each) and a slightly squared off goblet that would be good for all wines, in spite of its name—the "Rock Chester" (£1.51 each).

Henry Collison was established in 1815 in the City and the founder's son set up as a wine merchant at Table Bay, so the firm have maintained strong interests at the Cape and listed several single estate South African wines, as well as others—if you take the easy way round and arrange a credit at a wine merchant sending the list to a friend, you will find many varieties. Victoria Wine shops can supply wine tokens from 50p upwards, which can be used for any purchases in their branches.

Fine glasses and crystal, at prices usually far lower than might be expected, are always in stock at The General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1, and currently there are a range of wine coolers imported from Italy by Brandi. The bottle has to be filled first, then, in the cylindrical holder, it will remain cool for up to three hours, even in a stuffy atmosphere, without ice. The coolers have covers to accord with formal or casual entertaining, and they save space at table as well as being useful for keeping sherry or portmouth cool on the sideboard or drinks tray. Prices for these coolers start at £4.75 and go up to £7.25; each will hold a spark-

le.

Pamela Vandyke Price



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Gardening Appealing pools

Continuing with thoughts about constructional jobs that can be done during the winter let us consider a garden pool, or even more ambitiously a water garden.

But no wine lover will thank you for: thistle or "Eglin" glasses—until for any liquid, brandy warmers, which merely ruin the finest spirit by cooking it; Champagne "saucers" which flatten the wine; or elaborate wine cradles and racks—the simplest kind are invariably the most practical.

Pamela Vandyke Price

become a focal point and attract maximum interest. Site will also influence its shape. A geometrical design for example is the most appropriate for a formal garden with straight paths and beds, also in an artificial setting such as on a terrace or adjoining a house.

Informal shapes are better if the pool is sited in a rock or wild garden setting, where the result excavate the soil to the depth, or series of depths, required. Waterfalls and underwater oxygenators need a pool two feet deep, but most marginal aquatics are perfectly happy in six to 10 inches of water.

Purchase some strong butyl sheeting from a garden shop and stretch this right across the hole. Anchor the sides with bricks or blocks of stone and run water from a hose into the centre. As the weight of water builds up the fabric will stretch and take on the contours of the excavation.

Finally cut off any surplus material at the edges, except for six inches all round. This strip should be hidden from sight under paving for formal success or failure.

Garden pools must be in full sun or the aquatic plants it contains will not flower. It should also be in a position of

pools or rocks, soil or turves elsewhere.

It is wise to key on water and perhaps electricity when you are installing the pool. If you have a sloping informal site you may be able to make several small pools and install a small electric pump to recirculate water so that it tumbles down from the topmost pool to the lowest one in a series of small waterfalls.

In a formal pool a submersible pump to create a variety of fountain jets can be very attractive. One can even have a fountain that gives a number of different jet patterns also pumps that operate a jet and a small waterfall separately or both together. Underwater lighting is also easily installed and is attractive. Another advantage of installing electricity to the pool is that a small pool heater can be used to keep an area of water free of ice in frosty weather—very important if you have valuable fish in the pool. It is of course wise to have a main electric connection done by a competent electrician.

Specialist firms dealing with gardens, aquatic and marginal plants, fish and all the pumps, and other accessories include Anglo-Aquarium Plant Co., Wildwoods, Theobalds Park Road, Enfield, Middlesex, and Stapeley Water

Gardens, Chester, Cheshire.

In May plant water lilies very firmly in special aquatic baskets, which have holes all round their sides, using a soil mix of heavy fibre loam and bonemeal; use half a pint of loam to a bucketful of loam. Cover the top of the basket with half an inch of clean straw to prevent fish from rooting into the mud and then place the basket in the pool.

Ferns after a long period of neglect are currently enjoying a revival. They are ideal for moist shade spots, near fences or buildings, north borders or in woodland settings. The fronds are also useful for cutting.

Suitable beds can be prepared now by thoroughly digging and cleaning the soil, removing weeds in plenty of moist peat or leaf soil in the top 12in. Topdress the finished bed with a thin layer of bone-meal (two to three ounces to the square yard) and leave to settle until planting time comes round in March and April.

"Crispa", *"Marginata"* and *"Undulata"*.

Another good fern is *Martezia struthiopteris* whose fronds grow in an open circle—like a shuttlecock or a waste paper basket; there are also the lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and its forms *Aff. Coronatum*, *Aff. Crisatum* and *Aff. Plumosum*—all with frond variations—and the beautiful evergreen shield ferns, *Polystichum aculeatum* and *fraternum*.

There are also a few ferns suitable for very moist soils, such as *Asplenium nidus* found in the environs of a water garden, notably the osmundas or royal ferns. These bear their spores on separate fronds, which look like brown flowers so that they are often called flowering ferns. The most easily grown and obtainable are *O. cinnamomeum*, *O. claytoniana* and *O. regalis*.

The oak fern, *Onoclea sensibilis* makes dense mats of rhizomes, from which rise 12 to 24in. barren, oak-leaf shaped fronds, with the fertile fronds being smaller and more numerous. The leaves are dark green, with waxy yellow flowers-like drop earrings—and maple-like leaves on 3ft stems.

Sources of supply of ferns include Reginald Kaye, Silverdale, Lancashire, and Perry's Hardy Plant Farm, Enfield, Middlesex.

Roy Hay

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Where does Britain stand in the fight for human rights?

The legendary editor of a North American newspaper used constantly to remind his sub-editors to "Kansas City milk-manize" their stories as they prepared them for the newspaper. What he wanted to convey in his tortured, but succinct, English was that every story should be understandable to all the newspaper's readers. He meant no reflection on the milkmen of Kansas City or anywhere else.

Today, the human rights issue has both benefited and suffered from similar treatment: most people have heard of the issue but few understand its substance.

Human Rights Day today will be marked with the usual subscription to Amnesty International's chairman, Mrs Thomas Hammerberg, of the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the organization's contributions to the lessening of world tensions.

For the first time there is official world recognition that human rights and world peace are linked.

Just two days after the presentation of the peace prize, The Times is due to publish the latest in its series of articles on prisoners of conscience which is now approaching the century mark.

Only a few years ago all this would have been unthinkable. And though concern for human rights is now—when President Carter was still picking peaches from the trees in the struggle for human rights—is one former Latin American leader puts it—it is now, for better or worse, a considerable factor in international power politics.

The former politician shows no rancour when he speaks of President Carter, and even he would not deny that the new American stress on human rights issues is a step forward. But he like many human rights campaigners, is apprehensive about the final outcome.

The decision to cancel a grant

In Britain, the debate has been brought into sharp focus by the controversial decision to cancel a £15m grant to the Bolivian mining industry. Human rights activists and the National Union of Mineworkers (The Times, Nov 22) felt that granting the money would be interpreted as a "reward" to the La Paz government for its efforts to destroy the miners' trade union organization.

Whitethorn saw it as an opportunity to benefit not only the mine workers, by making better equipment available to them, but also British industry by giving it some badly-needed foreign orders.

Just as the United States is approaching the moment of truth in its human rights policy with Latin America in which hard choices have to be made, so Britain will soon have to decide how far the human rights policy should go. And the decision which will give at least a clue in that direction could come tomorrow when it sells £550,000 worth of second-hand military equipment to El Salvador, a country which has an appalling record of abuse of

David Watts

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H4

George Hutchinson Crown Agents: the man to sort out the mess

In the torrent of words to which the scandal of the Crown Agents has given rise, one person has been largely, if not entirely, overlooked. Mr John Cuckney is hardly mentioned, and remains unknown to the wider public. Yet his insight and knowledge will be of the first importance to the forthcoming inquiry, as they were to the Pay Committee's investigation.

Not that Mr Cuckney was present at No 4 Milkbank when the Agents were engaged in their deplorable transactions. He was, in effect, "deafened" there as chairman in 1974 to sort out the mess—an unpleasant and arduous commission.

John Cuckney, now in his early fifties, is a former—and, very accomplished—banker who was a director of Lazard's, who in recent years has distinguished himself in the public service, not always in appointments that could be called congenital. Seven years ago he was dispatched to Liverpool to rescue the failing Mersey Docks and Harbour Board—a delicate and trying assignment. More agreeably, he subsequently directed the Property Services Agency at the Environment Department of the Environment.

He might be described as the embodiment of intellect and cador, allied to much personal charm. In addition to his responsibility for the Crown Agents, he has lately become chairman of the Party of London Authors. You will never see him again.

Meanwhile he welcomes the long-awaited public inquiry to which Mr Callaghan has agreed under pressure from the House of Commons. From his

own study of the Agents' record he should be able to illuminate some of the darker aspects. He will certainly be an elegant witness—elegant in appearance, elegant in expression, and uncommonly lucid into the bargain.

While it seems right to set up a Tribunal, the proceedings will no doubt be distasteful, such were the Agents' excesses, especially between 1970 and 1974. Vast embarrassment lies ahead, not only for officialdom as represented both in Whitehall and in the Bank of England, but for several former ministers who failed to exercise their authority when warned of the dangers. One of them, Mr Richard Wood, acknowledged a degree of remissness in his role as a director, and did so generously, even handsomely. Mr Wood was not alone, however: there were others, too.

This cannot be an "easy" or painless inquiry: but it may be a beneficial one in terms of future safeguards.

Life is full of surprises, as they say. In a note a few weeks ago, I was regretting—and with good reason—the designations applied to Princess Anne, Mrs. Mark Phillips, and Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Mrs Angus Ogilvy. I expected, and have received, some response. But I never thought to see the day when the title of "Duchess" would be found desirable, this deployable usage, as he did in a subsequent letter in The Times. I repeat the daughter of a duke, royal or otherwise, is more properly called Lady So-and-so, never Mrs.

Then I heard from an interesting member of the Tribune group of Labour MPs, Mr John Lee, who was formerly in the Colonial Service and is a barrister. He had already written to The Times about the lack of respect for Princess Anne's baby son. He had this to say myself:

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THE DEFENCE OF EUROPE

Nato is now in better shape than it has been for some time, as this week's meeting in Brussels showed. There are still some very sore spots, such as the dispute between Greece and Turkey, but the broad purposes of the alliance are now being pursued with relatively high degree of harmony and rationality. Grand gestures and sweeping new doctrines have taken second place to programmes of steady practical reforms over the short and the long term. Worries about critical insufficiencies and bungled planning are receding. There has already been some progress in what General Haig, the Supreme Commander Europe, has called the three Rs—readiness, reinforcement and rationalization. Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, said on Wednesday that he was particularly encouraged by the response of the allies to the short-term initiatives agreed in May.

There are two main reasons for this growing confidence. First, an acceptable level of mutual comprehension between Moscow and Washington has been restored after the rough period at the beginning of the year, when the Russians were rattled by the opening gambits of the Carter Administration. Little has been achieved in the way of concrete agreements but the feeling that the two super powers might stumble into dangerous mistakes through simple lack of communication is no longer so acute. The underlying validity of détenté is confirmed, even though its terms are far from fully agreed.

Secondly, members of the alliance seem to have established a broader consensus on the nature of the threat and what needs to be done to counter it. At one end of the scale, it has been impossible to sustain the belief that détenté would usher in a new era of rapid disarmament. Efforts must and will continue (new western proposals are on the way) but results will be slow coming, so there can be no lowering of military vigilance. At the other end of the scale the more alarmist predictions of a rapid swing of the balance of power against a crumbling and demoralized West have also proved exaggerated.

True, the Soviet build-up has continued relentlessly in all

fields, with new and better weapons of all types streaming continuously into eastern Europe. Last night's communiqué from Brussels rightly said that this casts a shadow over East-West relations. But so far the West has shown itself able to counter with sufficient improvements of its own. As Mr Brown said in Brussels: "The alliance really does have to pull up its socks (but) I think we are now starting to do that". He cited the fact that allied anti-tank guided missiles will have increased, from 47,000 at the end of 1976 to 193,000 by the end of 1978.

There are, however, some new and difficult challenges looming up that already require even closer cooperation between Europe and the United States. At stake in the long run is whether Europe or any of its members can sustain an independent nuclear deterrent. At the moment arms control is being discussed mainly on two separate levels. The Americans and the Russians discuss limits on strategic weapons while in Vienna the allies (without France) join in attempts to limit forces in central Europe. The distinction is becoming increasingly blurred, largely because of new weapons such as the Cruise missile, which can be either tactical or strategic, but also because of forward-based systems such as land-based and sea-based bombers which can attack the Soviet Union from Europe. The Americans are now considering including forward-based systems and "grey area" weapons in guidelines for future SALT agreements. Already there is a Soviet-American protocol envisaging three years in which Cruise missiles with a range of more than 600 kilometres would not be deployed while versions with a range of more than 2,500 kilometres would not be developed.

Mr Brown rightly insists that this does not foreclose the possibility of Cruise missiles being deployed in Europe, or even of Europeans developing their own. Nor has the United States made any commitment not to transfer Cruise missile technology to its European allies. The whole question is still open. Equally accurately, however, he speaks of political and psychological pressures following from Soviet-American limitations on the missile. It would be politically difficult for the super powers not to fully agree.

Wilson's other "categorical denial" dealing with an interview about a book on President Amin as that was after my time.

Yours faithfully,

HUGH GREENE,
Flat 7,
10 Palace Gate, W8.
December 8.

A VICTORY THAT IS WORSE THAN DEFEAT

By persuading executives of Hitachi, the Japanese electrical and electronics company, that there is no place for them in Britain the home-based television manufacturing industry has won what it clearly considers to be a singular victory. If victory means defeating the Government from its avowed policy of seeking to attract more foreign investment to these shores, despite the long-term consequences that such a defeat may have for British industry as a whole, then the manufacturers and their trade union partners are using the word well. But many will hope that this particular "victory" will prove to be singular only in the sense that it is a once-and-for-all happening, not to be repeated by this or any other manufacturing group bent upon its own sectional interests.

There are several disturbing aspects to the affair. About a year ago the Government, through its representatives in the Department of Industry, indicated that it would not oppose Hitachi's efforts to establish manufacturing facilities in the north of England, provided certain conditions were met. Negotiations were opened, and several important assurances were wrested from the Japanese. In essence, Hitachi agreed that it would obtain at least 40 per cent of the component's it required from United Kingdom suppliers;

moreover, it would seek to export some 50 per cent of its output, and at the same time it would reduce the importation of its sets from Japan as its own English-based operation got under way.

It would be wrong to say that the Government has now gone back on its word, because it is the Japanese themselves who have decided that the climate is not right for them to move into Britain. But Hitachi has clearly come to this decision because of the sustained and at times near-hysterical campaign waged against it by the industry's leaders. And the Government has done little publicly to abate this protectionist clamour.

Ironically, the industry's campaign has been led by its own sector working party, operating under the umbrella of the National Economic Development Office. It is to such bodies as this that the Government has been looking for statesmen-like, practical advice on implementing the industrial strategy that is designed to restore the country to its former glory as a producer of goods for the world.

One can understand the anxiety of workers in the television manufacturing industry to preserve their jobs, particularly at a time when their companies are suffering from a severe recession and overcapacity. It is natural, too, that the companies themselves should

seek to build barriers against so powerful a competitor, both technologically and economically, as Hitachi. But ultimately no British manufacturer, or indeed no manufacturer in any other part of the world, can survive against a producer who offers reliable products often at costs which are lower than those of its rivals. Its only hope is to put its own house in order as rapidly as possible.

On the day Hitachi said it would not go forward with its United Kingdom plans, it announced that it had formed links with General Electric to manufacture in the United States. That, too, has its own touch of irony. The American television manufacturing industry has been going through an intensely competitive period as its British counterpart, and its leaders have been lobbying their country's politicians with equal persistence. Yet Hitachi's decision not to come to Britain may give the United Kingdom industry a chance to regain some good may come of the affair. If it is not, the chances are that the industry's opposition will prove to have done no more than persuade other would-be foreign investors that Britain does not mean business after all.

which, presumably, even a Scot could not write a representative work of "liberal Anglican theology".

But how are these things advanced? I am sure if you were to mention (just casually) that I am fellow of Balliol, they would not run away when I turned up for dinner. To whom does one apply?

PETER W. GRANT,
32 Hart Street,
Oxford.
December 5.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CRUTCHFIELD
Secretary, British Gas Corporation,
59 Bryanston Street,
Marble Arch, W1.
December 8.

In Regent's Park
From Lady Mallinson

Sir, I should like to write in support of Mr Brown's letter, published on December 6, about the sculpture which has appeared in Regent's Park. Not only are there blue fibreglass statues, but men-Stooges and monoliths have also appeared under groups of trees. Why must this lovely open park—the whole point of its harmonious nature—is that it is an open and almost rural place in the midst of the pleasing architecture of the Nash terraces be cluttered up with man-made objects? If it is said that this sculpture, even if it is discordant, is there to "make us think", surely one might reply that to most people who hopefully walk in Regent's Park this place, with its splendid wild rose bushes, flowers and fields, is a pleasant and uplifting refuge from oppressive thought.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MALLINSON,
25 Wimpole Street, W1.
December 8.

President Sadat's mission
From Mrs D. C. Casson
Sir, Your response from the church to the Egyptian-Israeli moves to ward peace does Mr Andrew Crutcher look for? (December 5). He asks for recognition from "Christianity through its churches".
Here in an industrialised and new housing area, members of this Anglican church have been giving thanks to God for the news. In our public worship, in house groups and privately we have prayed for all those involved. The contracts, political and spiritual, with the situation at the time Moses have been discussed with lively interest.

We are ordinary Christians; we love God at work in the world, and we rejoice. What more can we do?

Yours faithfully,
HELEN CASSON,
145 Hollybush Road,
Luton,
Bedfordshire.
December 5.

Fount of honour?

From Mr Peter Grant
Sir, I have always suspected that The Times is the true fount of all honours, and in Oxford, at least, the case seems proved. A few days ago Philip Howard contacted me, Fr Christopher Lush the "rotund he so amply merits but are so steadfastly refused to collect today Clifford Langley bestows on Professor James Barr the grace of Episcopal confirmation (without

responsibilities seriously in this field believe in either).

Perhaps Sir Christopher wants different rules in different places, in our view he cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BROOK, Chief Executive,
National Bus Company,
25 New Street Square, EC4.
December 7.

Bermuda executions
From Lord Thorlton
Sir, the recent debate on the Bermuda executions recalls a 1970 case of a capital sentence in the Bahamas. After due process and in accordance with the advice of the Bahamas Committee on the Exercise of the Prerogative of Mercy, I stated that the law must take its course, but on appeal to the Crown the then Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary asked for reconsideration.

The case remained under discussion between Nossbus and London for many weeks during which exhaustive further examination of all the circumstances confirmed the judgment of Bahamas Ministers and myself. But the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary made it clear that he was not prepared to allow the sentence to be carried out. After repeated stay of proceedings we eventually acquiesced on grounds

of humanity, in order that the condemned prisoner should not be kept longer in suspense.

The common law convention was not formally breached but in effect the "Cruel and unusual punishment" clause of the Bill of Rights was set aside.

Yours, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THURLOW,
House of Lords.
December 8.

That the condemned prisoner should not be kept longer in suspense is a matter of conscience. The common law convention was not formally breached but in effect the "Cruel and unusual punishment" clause of the Bill of Rights was set aside.

Yours, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THURLOW,
House of Lords.
December 8.

Such reports are common reading today and it is easy to turn a deaf ear to yet one more example. But it is especially painful and courageous to learn at the same time that our own government is presently proposing to sell £850,000 of military equipment, including second-hand armoured vehicles, to the Salvadoran Government.

The manufacture and sale of arms remains always a highly questionable enterprise. In the present case it cannot be the immoral.

Since March of this year US military aid to El Salvador has been suspended on grounds of human rights. It would seem urgent that Britain should support this initiative and cancel the sale immediately.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE KEANE SJ,
BRIAN CONWAY SJ,
ROBERT MURRAY SJ,
JOSEPH LAISLEY SJ,
20 Phoenix Road, NW1.
December 8.

Some may believe that the consequence would be better public transport systems in town and country. NBC energetically does not.

We do not think that county and district councils who take their

Sir Harold Wilson and the BBC

From Sir Hugh Greene

Sir, I am sorry that Sir Harold Wilson's famous memory is at last beginning to fail him.

Today The Times reports his

"categorical denial" of a statement

by Mr Mansell, the managing director of BBC external services, on

a case of Government intervention in

connection with a programme by

a book by Staline's daughter

Svetlana Alliluyeva.

I spent almost every evening

during the GLC elections canvassing for the Labour candidate for

North Hackney and Stoke Newington, in the spring of this year. The

National Front fought that election

as a programme of deadly simplification. It was a combination of

socialist measures and racial hatred.

Such a programme brought Hitler to power in Germany in 1933. The

then Foreign Secretary, had been

on a visit to Moscow since May 23.

On the afternoon of May 25 I

had a telephone call from the

Foreign Office to say that an urgent

message had been received from

George Brown, asking that steps

be taken to see that the pro-

gramme was dropped as otherwise

the Foreign Office would be

unable to meet an important meeting due to

take place the next day. I replied

that the programme could not be

dropped as it had received a lot of

publicity and press comment would

be unavoidable.

A little later that afternoon

another call reached me, this time from Number 10 Downing Street. I

was told that the Prime Minister

would be very grateful if the pro-

gramme could be dropped "in the

national interest". I finally agreed

to drop the programme but the

Foreign Office had threatened to

cancel the meeting if the programme

was not dropped. I replied that

the Conservative candidate declined

to do so.

The National Front programme

for London involved the compul-

sory repatriation of all coloured

people from Britain (even those

who were born here), and the re-

moval of coloured people from

council house waiting lists and from

GLC mortgage applicants' lists.

Special segregated schools were to

be built for the education of

coloured children in the pre-

adolescent period now.

It was agreed that the programme

should be dropped "in the national

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adolescent period now.

It was agreed that the



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 9: Ms Justice Hodgson had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court of Justice when Her Majesty was pleased upon him the honour of knighthood.

His Excellency Sir Narayan Ganesh Goray was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission for the High Commissioner for the Republic of India in London.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the High Commission, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty:

Shri P. A. Nasarati (Deputy High Commissioner), Dr Arjun Sangutia (Minister), Shri C. M. Menon (Colonel), Brigadier M. Mayadas (Military Adviser), Commodore C. L. Sachdeva (Naval Adviser) and Air Commodore Nandlal Chokhani (Air Attaché).

Mr Curtis Keeble (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs), who had the honour of being received by The Queen, was present and the Queen's Bodyguard in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr P. S. Preston (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Development) had the honour of being received by The Queen.

Major-General Colville Goff of The Queen's Own Berkshire Regiment, received the Colonel (Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan-Howard) from the Royal and accepted Silver Salutes. Gift.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited HM Naval Base at Chatham this morning.

Having been received upon arrival by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Kent (the Lord Astor of Hever), His Royal Highness drove to the Naval Base and was received by Midshipman C. M. Berry.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Captain-General, later visited the Royal Marines at Deal and was received by the Commandant-General of the Artillery, Lieutenant-General J. C. Richards.

His Royal Highness was entertained at luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

Captain Duncan Christie-Miller, RM, was in attendance.

Marriage

Mr S. J. Selwyn and Miss R. L. Miller. The marriage took place recently in Philadelphia of Mr Stephen John Selwyn, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Selwyn of Bembridge, Isle of Wight, to Miss Rhonda Lori Miller, daughter of Mr and Mrs Marvin Miller, of Springfield, Pennsylvania, United States.

Dance

St Stephen's Club. The chairman and committee of St Stephen's Club entertained guests at their annual Christmas dance yesterday evening.

POSTAL SHOPPING



Make your windows clear! The most popular window screen is the Scriptex 'Off-the-Wall' Non-Plastic Handi-Screen. No wire, no metal frame. Just a simple, clear plastic screen which is easily applied to your windows or doors. It fits in the window frame and is held in place by a simple clip. It is completely clear and scratch resistant.

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Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

Bill for North Sea oil development may top £25,000m by mid-1980s

By Roger Vielvoye

Exploration of North Sea oil over the next three years will absorb a further £8,000m. Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, said yesterday that offshore expenditure this year would be about £2,500m and the whole North Sea programme between 1977 and 1985 could amount to £25,000m.

Dr Mabon, speaking at a lunch in Aberdeen to mark the start of production from the Occidental Group's Claymore field, said the average future as a whole was expected to be about 3 per cent of gross domestic product to the end of 1980 with oil and gas accounting for about half.

"This is all very big money; and there are some very big profits to be made also. We hope and expect that the oil companies will be ploughing back some of their profits into Britain," he added.

He disclosed that there was great confidence among bankers about the North Sea. "I am not sure that bankers can ever be asked to take risks and have to invest their money, but it appears to be exactly what they are doing in the case of the North Sea. I suspect they know something."

"This encouraging phenomenon can best be summed up in the words of one rueful banker to an official at my department last week. Of oil companies with prospective North Sea developments he said: 'times are hard, they do not come to us on their knees any more'."

The estimated cost of the project, including five LNG ships which have already been ordered, is \$2,400m.

Elliott Group confirms loss of £54m Saudi orders

By Michael Prest

Orders worth £54m from Saudi Arabia, which Elliott Group of Peterborough reported it had won in August, have definitely fallen through and the company has reported a first-half loss of £24,000. The first-half dividend has been passed as well.

Mr E. L. V. Smeeth, chairman of the company, said yesterday that his decision to sell about 200,000 Elliott shares for about £78,000 after the announcement of the big Saudi order and before October's classification that the orders might not be forthcoming, was the result of pressure from his bank to reduce his overdraft.

Elliott genuinely believed that the orders would go through, Mr Smeeth said.

This loss is concentrated in the Elliott Medway Construction part of the group. The other two divisions—Sharp Brothers and Knight, a joinery company, and Medway Wharfers—are profitable.

The bulk of the loss at Med-

China seeks British steel industry help in three-part deal to increase output

By Peter Hill

Prospects for Britain to play an active role in developing the Chinese steel industry, coupled with warnings of a pruning in the British Steel Corporation's investment programme, were spelt out yesterday by Sir Charles Villiers, the corporation's chairman.

He revealed that firm proposals have been made to the Chinese government for the BSC, the British Independent Steel Producers Association and United Kingdom steel plant makers, to provide a three part package.

This would mean the supply and installation of steelmaking equipment in China by Britain and other EEC plant makers, negotiation on advanced technology by the United Kingdom.

Shortfall of £700m on PSBR indicated

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Government borrowed £1,075m in November, which suggests that the total public sector borrowing requirement will be at most £6,800m during the current financial year, compared with a published estimate of £7,500m.

The gap between the official forecast and the likely out-turn is almost entirely explained by the deliberate distinguishes of the Treasury, since the official estimate of the public borrowing need assumes that earnings will rise by 10 per cent during the earnings year, which seems a figure.

The secret assumption of the Treasury, which underlies the forecasts presented to ministers, but which has not been officially revealed to the rest of the country, is that earnings will rise by around 15 per cent during the current round, and lead to a larger increase in tax revenue.

Most of the gap between the forecast made in the April statement and the actual out-turn reflects large errors made in the forecasting of the Inland Revenue and the Customs and Excise.

Both departments have come under severe internal criticism within Whitehall because of their continuing failure to produce correct estimates of their likely revenue during the year.

Many Treasury officials believe the departments for the very large error in estimation of the total public borrowing requirement which has exposed the Treasury to widespread ridicule during 1976.

The government forecast of total public sector borrowing during the financial year which began in April 1977, is likely to be between 30 per cent and 40 per cent wide of the mark, which may have led to incorrect judgments about the economic strategy to be pursued.

In the period to the end of November, the total public sector deficit on the Consolidated Fund was £3,101m compared with £4,405m during the same period last year.

This led to a central government cash deficit of £4,061m overall of £3,061m compared with £4,497m in fiscal 1976. During November alone, the borrowing need of £1,075m compared with a borrowing need of £848m in November last year.

The Treasury's forecast for total public borrowing, although built in to the cash deficit, is not quite as awful as is suggested by these figures.

The gap is made worse by the attempt to persuade people that the Treasury expects earnings to rise at an annual rate of around 10 per cent, when the fact is that the latest forecast is that earnings will go up by around 15 per cent.

Between March 31 and December 9, Mr Smeeth reduced his holding from 524,633 shares to 189,633. The bulk of the disposal was made through stockbrokers Sheppards and Chase at an average price of 39p, before the October announcement that the orders might not materialize. The shares closed last night 5p down at 14p.

On Polish vessels

Mr George Parker, managing director of Smith's Dock, Tyneside, said yesterday that the necessary assurances had been given by all sections of the company's South Bank yard on the construction of two Polish bulk carriers destined from Swan Hunter's Tyne side yard.

On steel products

and sales of steel products by BSC and other British steelmakers on a continuing basis and in increasing amounts.

Sir Charles, who was addressing the annual junction of the Metal Industrial Plumbers Federation in London, said that it was established during his recent visit to China that there were plans to increase Chinese steelmaking capacity from 25 million tonnes a year to 100 million tonnes a year by the end of this century.

Mr Li Chiang, the Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade had agreed to send a trade mission next year to the United Kingdom to discuss the possibility.

But the corporation chairman is faced with considerable difficulties in the short and medium term at home with losses this year expected to amount to at least £500m.

Dollar buoyed by hope of support

By David Blake

Hope that the authorities were committed to action to protect the dollar, combined with belief that technical factors would act to help it, combined to raise its value yesterday.

At the close of business it stood at 3.51 per cent compared to 3.74 per cent at the close of business on Thursday.

It was hoped that the meeting of Finance Ministers last weekend, combined with the meeting on Monday of central bank governors in Basle, would lead to joint action to prop up the dollar, and this played a part in its revival. But monetary sources suggested that indications of international intervention to keep up the parity of the United States currency were premature.

Herr Klaus Bölling, the Government spokesman, told press conference that Dr Emminger's report was analytical and did not contain proposals for dealing with the dollar's recent decline.

Well-informed sources in Bonn later reported that Dr Emminger's briefing was lengthy. But apparently he did not refer

to any time to the meeting of western central bankers set for Monday in Basle.

There is speculation in Germany and Switzerland that the Basle meeting may produce some sort of decision or statement designed to support the dollar.

Banking sources also expect that next Thursday's meeting of the federal bank council in Frankfurt will decide to cut bank rate by half a percentage point from the current level of 3.5 per cent and fix a fairly generous money supply target for 1978 of perhaps an 8 per cent increase in central bank money stock.

It emerged that Dr Emminger and Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve System, also took part in the Paris meeting last weekend, but no details were disclosed about their discussions.

Although the Deutsche mark was again strong against the other members of the蛇 (snake) currency, it was not so strong against the dollar, according to Dr Emminger's spokesman.

There were no special meetings planned this weekend to discuss the snake or any possible changes in the joint float system.

Retailers accept metrication target

The Retail Consortium announced yesterday that it had agreed to accept the legislative programme proposed by the Metrication Board for implementing the final stages of metrication in the United Kingdom.

Retailers have been particularly concerned that adequate time be given to the Department of Prices for consultation before the various statutory orders were made. They also wanted as far as possible a three-year period between an order for weighted out foodstuffs and its implementation date.

Agreement on these and other points was reached after lengthy and detailed discussions between retail trade associations and the Metrication Board.

So far as the metrication of weighed out foodstuffs is concerned, the consortium expects that metrication should be completed by the end of 1981.

This however is dependent on weighing scale manufacturers keeping to the conversion timetable.

Union link-up could bring clash in TUC

The Engineers' and Managers' Association, which has been pursuing a strong expansionist policy for more members under Mr John Lyons, its general secretary, yesterday merged with Shipbuilding and Allied Industries Management Association (SAMA).

It could bring an immediate clash involving other TUC affiliated unions which, unlike EMA, are affiliated to the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU).

Earlier this year the TUC ruled that proliferation of unions within aerospace and shipbuilding should be avoided and organizing staff grades such as professional engineers should be restricted to CSEU affiliates.

Japan's output growth tumbles to 0.5pc

Japan's output growth fell to 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, compared with 1.7 per cent in the previous quarter and 2.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1977, the Economic Planning Agency said yesterday in its preliminary report. Actual growth rates of private housing investment and government capital formation proved smaller than earlier estimated, contributing to the downward revision.

Prices panel to study rise in glass ingredient

A proposed price increase of sodium carbonate, or soda ash, a major constituent in glass making and a commodity of which Imperial Chemical Industries holds a still production monopoly in Britain, is being investigated by the Price Commission.

ICI, which has raised soda ash prices twice this year already, by 5.3 per cent and 6.9 per cent, is asking the commission to agree to an interim price increase while the investigation goes on.

Fresh £900m tap stock launched as heavy gilts demand continues

By John Whitmore

Finance Correspondent

Continuing buoyant demand for gilt edged stock yesterday led to the exhaustion of the Government's long-dated "tap" stock and the announcement of a new £900m short-dated stock.

Exhaustion of the long-dated "tap", Treasury 30-year

gilts, means that the authorities

will now be able to issue all the £600m nominal of stock in a matter of only four days. Because they

had to cut the selling price sharply, however, net proceeds from the sale of the stock were probably little more than £540m.

Together with estimated sales up to £200m of the short-dated "tap", Treasury 3½ per cent 1982, which was exhausted on Wednesday morning, the authorities appear to have sold stock to the value of up to £750m this week.

In fact, net sales may well be even lower than this as many brokers feel that the authorities have been facilitating switches out of existing stocks into the most recent issues.

Even if this has been the case, however, the fact that the authorities have been able to restart their funding programme on a significant scale

is a welcome sign of recovery.

As pressure on societies to cut interest rates grows, the indications are that the investment rate will be lowered from 6½ per cent to 5½ per cent (still offering a gross return of 8.71 per cent), and the mortgage rate trimmed from its present level of 9½ per cent to 9 per cent.

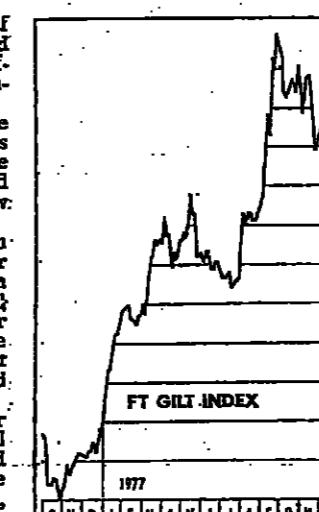
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November net receipts were



9pc mortgages likely next month

By Margaret Stone

Mortgage rates will not be cut immediately, but it is almost certain that the Building Societies Association will recommend a modest reduction in both the mortgage and the investment rate when it next meets on January 13.

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In November £745m was lent to housebuyers and a further £795m promised, both records. At the same time the movement's liquidity, at 25.75 per cent, is also rising extremely high.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Grouse

A central theme of the recent Consumer Credit Act is the entitlement of consumers to information to enable them to choose credit rationally.

By requiring credit institutions to publish "true" rates of interest there is no doubt that much of the foginess surrounding the difference between published rates of interest (which conveniently ignored in the past the fact that the outstanding balance fell as regular instalments were paid) and what the consumer actually had to pay has been cleared up.

There are, however, still some blurred edges which make it all the more difficult for the consumer to reach that "rational" decision. One of these comes in the bank credit cards, Access and Barclaycard, where until rates diverged last month there appeared to be no difference in the cost of credit between the two.

A reader, Mr F. Hippiss from Birmingham, writes to say that most cardholders would have assumed the bases used to calculate interest charges would have been the same whereas in fact Barclaycard credit works out rather cheaper.

The advantage swings away from Barclaycard, it is true, when cash advances on the cards come into the reckoning since here Access allows full use of the free credit period while Barclaycard users have to pay a 2½ per cent commission straightaway.

Short of what even Access admits to be a very complicated sum, however, there is no way that customers can work out what the difference is. Hardly in keeping with the spirit of the Consumer Credit Act.

Taxation: readers ask

This week I look at another batch of readers' letters.

On capital gains tax a reader writes: "I was non-resident for United Kingdom tax purposes for many years while resident in the United States and while there bought a number of securities. I returned to England on retirement two years ago and recently sold some American shares. Sales were at a profit. Am I correct in thinking the tax authorities will not charge me to capital gains tax?"

Unfortunately the place of residence at the time of acquisition is irrelevant. The rule is that a charge to capital gains tax arises if the individual is resident or ordinarily resident in this country during the tax year in which the sale is made.

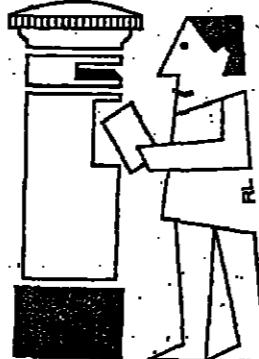
The next inquiry concerns an article I wrote on preparing the annual tax return and the reader refers to the National insurance retirement pension for the year ended April 5, 1977, which has to be included in the next return 1977-78.

He comments: "So one would assume that the 1977-78 assessment would be based on the 1976-77 figure. Not so states HM Inspector of Taxes. The 1976-77 figure will be ignored and a notice of assessment will be issued based on an estimated 1977-78 figure. Then, when details of that figure are known, a revised assessment notice will be issued. Is this correct?"

The tax office is quite right. One of the confusing things about our annual tax return is that although all income of the preceding year has to be entered in it now part of it is assessable on a preceding year. Certain types of income are taxable on the actual amount arising in the year and this is the case with pensions.

A reader writes from abroad: "From last April's budget I was given to understand that employees working abroad were entitled to a certain measure of tax relief on their earnings, namely 25 per cent for 30 days' work overseas and 100 per cent if 365 days or more. Yet despite this the Inland Revenue have

Overseas earnings • Who gets the child allowance?



stated that I am regarded as remaining resident for income tax purposes as my salary is continuing to be paid from the United Kingdom."

The 25 per cent and 100 per cent deductions can be claimed even though one is technically resident in the United Kingdom and the salary is paid here. Non-residence is quite a separate matter and does not affect the working overseas relief—an advantage is that my unearned income arising abroad escapes United Kingdom tax.

The difficulty of obtaining the child allowance for the custody of younger brothers and sisters is the complaint of a reader who successfully claimed it for the years 1972-73 to 1975-76 during the absence of his father abroad. On father's return to the United Kingdom, however, the tax office said that the children were deemed to be in the father's custody and control. For the year 1976-77 this is disadvantageous from a tax point of view because the

I made the general point in my last readers' column that the child allowance and child benefit that the latter automatically ceases when the child reaches the age of 16. Another reader has written to say that in his family's case the child benefit was withdrawn at a younger age when their child went to university.

Sorry I did not at that time develop the point further, but yes, this will be so because the child benefit is given for children under the age of 16 or under 19 if still at school or college full time. Unfortunately this does not include children on a degree or other advanced course.

Vera Di Palma

father was not employed in that year as he was attending a course under the government's training scheme.

The reader asks whether he should persist in his claim for the child allowance for the year his father was unemployed as "the children were living in my property and I was responsible for their clothing, transport to school, and the like—in effect maintaining them".

Section 10 of the Taxes Act 1970 states that the claimant is entitled to the child allowance if he proves either that the child is his own or that for the year of assessment "he has the custody of, and maintains at his own expense, a child (other than a child of his own) . . .".

Section 11 tells us that where two or more individuals are entitled to the allowance if shall be apportioned between the individuals in question in such proportion as they agree, or in absence of agreement, in proportion to the amount or value of the provision made by them respectively.

Presumably father and son have agreed that the latter shall make the claim for 1976-77 (if not it would be a good idea for the father to inform the tax office in writing) and the reader should certainly persist in his claim as I see no reason why the tax office should refuse him the child allowance.

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Insurance

Cover for legal battles

For an insurer, introducing a new kind of insurance is seldom a licence to print money. In fact, *most* new forms of cover fall by the wayside. It is unlikely that legal expenses insurance will suffer that fate; but it has had its problems, especially with policies for individuals and families.

This insurance (to cover legal expenses of disputes with individuals or organizations) can be useful since so many people are ineligible for legal aid but cannot afford, from their own resources, to go to court underwriters.

So far there is one important variation in the approach of the two insurers. The Lloyd's scheme has the drawback (from a policyholder's point of view) that one has to contribute from one's own resources 10 per cent of the cost of the legal expenses incurred (or £10 if greater), recovering only the balance from underwriters.

On the other hand DAS series claims in full. It is not surprising, therefore, that the legal costs paid by the company sometimes have exceeded the amounts recovered.

No doubt policyholders have been working on the principle that they have paid their premiums and expect to be able to make claims even for trivial incidents.

As might be expected, insurers have had "selection" in mind when against them—that is mainly those who feel they are most likely to need this form of protection (or who are most likely to take advantage of it) who have arranged to have it.

Understandably personal cover was the first to be introduced. Now, a specialist company such as DAS sees its main scope for expansion in the commercial field, where there is not the same degree of "selection". In some cases companies are arranging to be insured even when it seems quite clear that their resources are sufficient to meet legal expenses on and when they may

The growth of legal expenses insurance on the Continent (a four hundred-fold increase in Germany over 27 years) is not necessarily a guide to the popularity which can be expected in this country, as until a few years ago 90 per cent of German legal expenses insurance related to motor risks.

Only about 20 per cent of motorists in Germany have comprehensive motor cover. Many, therefore, top up their third-party policies with legal expenses insurance so that they can pursue a claim against the other motorist where they feel a collision was caused as a result of his negligence.

In this country the majority of motorists are insured on

comprehensive terms, and so do not need that insurance to the same extent—although it can be useful for recovering uninsured losses, such as the amount of an excess under a comprehensive policy (which in turn may mean the saving of no-claim discount at renewal).

At some stage, almost certainly, legal expenses insurance will be available as an optional extra (or as part of the basic cover) under a household policy. There are, however, problems for insurers—not least of which is that the average insurance worker handling claims is inexperienced in this type of business.

Presently, a family general and consumer protection policy from DAS costs £9.50 (although the premium can be expected to rise before long), and if cover in respect of motoring is required an extra £12.50 is charged.

Here are some of the claims which have been settled—which

original charge. The solicitors' charges and disbursements paid by the insurers, amounted to £70.

In some cases, the fact that the other side knows an individual is insured and has the financial muscle to go to court can bring results. For instance, a policyholder bought a sailing dinghy from a boatbuilding firm. It was soon found to be defective, but the owner failed to secure satisfaction despite a lengthy correspondence. Then a legal expenses insurer was called in. After several letters and conversations with the claimants the company secured full reimbursement of the cost of the boat.

A neighbour complained that a policyholder's dog was a nuisance. The neighbour threatened legal action. That, presumably, was a try-on because solicitors were appointed who denied liability. No further action was taken and the matter was closed. The solicitors' fees of £10 were paid by the insurers.

Most householders have trouble at some stage with builders or contractors. As an example of how legal expenses insurance can help: a policyholder had a dispute with heating contractors who had installed his central heating, alleging that the work had not been completed properly and was of poor standard.

Solicitors were appointed and the outcome was an allowance of £30 by the heating contractors. It was as well that the solicitors' fees were covered by insurance; they amounted to £39.

John Drummond

Investor's week

Market unsettled by company news

Economic and industrial news, which in a more confident phase would have brought a positive response, made little impact on the London stock market this week.

Dealers preferred to take their cue from the fortunes of some of the leading industrial concerns, largely ignoring better news. In addition, the balance of payments, government borrowing and the troublesome money supply.

Thursday's meeting of the miners' union executive—an event which many had seen as a likely pointer to a winter of industrial strife—passed with only a muted response. The decision to observe the 12-month rule on pay was followed by a small mark-up of share prices but even that quickly fizzled out through lack of support.

However, equities did well to maintain their consolidation on the minimum amount of business and over five sessions the FT index fell just 8 to last night's close of 485.5.

Though the week began with one of the quietest days of the year the lowest monthly rise in wholesale prices for 41 years enabled both equities and gilts to hold on to early rises.

But on the industrial pitches this mood was quickly shattered the following day by a gloomy survey of profitability and future prospects from EMI, a constituent of the FT

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK						
					Rises	Falls
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement	Comment		
225p	112p	GEC	18p to 160p	Above-estimate figs		
160p	21p	Leigh Int	18p to 160p	Speculative demand		
113p.	43p	Northern Foods	14p to 113p	Figures		
72p	22p	A. Preedy	9p to 71p	Takeover hopes		
	18p	Savoy "A"	9p to 30p	Small buying in thin market		

Ordinary Share. Nor did surprisingly good figures from GEC mollify equities which went into sharp reverse. This remained the pattern for the rest of the week.

Government stocks, meanwhile, performed rather better with pointers to single-figure inflation next year and signs that the money supply was again coming under control inspiring a selective demand.

At this point the Government Broker decided the time was right to reactivate the long "up" and the buying carried over to Wednesday when its shorter counterpart was

quickly exhausted. This, however, did not help the shorter end of the market where dealers feared that replacement "up" would be announced later in the week.

On Monday the market moves into the three-week account covering Christmas.

Though little increase in the overall level of business is expected the onset of the "share tipping season" and the adjustment of institutional books at the year-end could bring some spectacular movements in individual stocks or sectors.

EMI suffered for several days after the gloomy words from

its chairman and over the week lost 39p to 181p. GEC, on the other hand, continued to gather strength from its figures, rising 12p to 266p.

Profit from Rowntree Mackintosh rose 418p to 511p. Profits from 490p brought little support for the holders of their shares, while Great Universal Stores, at 312p were right on target. The loss from the Burton tailoring group was largely discounted, the "A" shares rising 13p to 94p.

A feature of the week was an unusually large number of small speculative stocks making, at times, spectacular gains on hopes of a takeover. One of the best-known names was the Bibby foods group which continued to be supported in spite of a takeover denial.

Shares of the group, where Tiger Oats has a sizable stake, rose 5p to 195p.

Fine art group Spink & Son dipped 26p to 25p when it was learned that talks with an unnamed suitor had been called off.

In a week in which the call on the BP party paid shares fell due, both old and new shares were hit by the weakness of Wall Street. The old shares lost 15p to 865p, while the new fully-paid new were 76p lower at 874p.

David Mott

Round-up

Chieftain tries for an investment trust

The most interesting event of the week has certainly been the offer by the Chieftain unit trust group to persuade the shareholders in Second Broadmount investment trust company to opt first for voluntary liquidation followed by the simultaneous offer of units in a new Chieftain unit trust to replace the shares.

The scheme's advantages are that it bypasses many of the nastier tax problems that would normally face dissident shareholders who might be searching around for any alternative to the unit trust or, in their view, as a result of asset value. It seems like neither individual nor corporate capital gains tax will be levied.

Chieftain does not have the assent of the board of the Second Broadmount board who both directly and indirectly through certain trusts, influence a third of the trust's shares, so clearly it is a long shot. However, there is little doubt in anyone's mind—other than the most die-hard of investment trust managers—that some solution has to be found to the problem of over-capitalization which plagues the industry. Th bid from Chieftain should please most of the people most of the time. Shareholders are being offered a tax-efficient way of acquiring a realistic price for their assets or, if they stay with the new unit trust, a con-

tinuation of active portfolio management. Chieftain gets more assets under management for a relatively small outlay. Elderly shareholders bearing in mind capital transfer tax should, of course, dispose of their assets before any upgrading in their value as a result of privatization.

Unit trust services are emerging fast and furious.

Major stockbrokers Henry Cooke Lumsden have announced a discretionary service for unitholders and this week, Investment Research, a bridge-based investment consulting firm, have written to remind me of their hitherto unknown free unit trust portfolio service.

The new insurance broking subsidiary of commodity brokers M. L. Duxford might not raise a mention in normal circumstances but who can resist Paul Jennings' Cautionary Ventures portfolio excelling the services of insurance brokers which is Duxford's substitute for the conventional introductory booklet. Merrick on mortgages and Ogden Nash on permanent health insurance.

However long it takes, you

to reach a state of well-being

For one whole year the Inland Revenue

Take nothing at all (they

have a heart, a thing you

revenue). . .

I.G. Index—the only organization through which you can take a direct interest in gold—is introducing some outstanding improvements for its clients and anyone who wants to profit from commodity futures.

For Gold The maximum position period has been increased to three months; between buying and selling for one month has been reduced to less than 1%.

For Options Now the equivalent of "Put" and "Call" options can also be made through I.G. Index.

For Copper, Tin and Silver "Buying" and "Selling" spread has been reduced to around 1%.

Children

Teaching youngsters to save wisely

Many readers may feel that having large sums of cash to deploy for their offspring's future benefit is no problem at all, but dealing with smaller, occasional or unexpected windfalls frequently finds parents at a loss as to what kind of investments to recommend to their fortunate sons or daughters.

A classic case is where a relative gives a child a sum of money following good examination results. Or perhaps he or she comes into a small inheritance, say a few hundred pounds, in someone's will. What should be done with the money?

If the child has an overwhelming interest in some sport or pastime that involves a fair amount of capital expenditure, then at least part of the sum can be fruitfully employed immediately.

But shouldn't one also encourage children to save? They can learn financial discipline from the possession and use of their own account book and glean something of the concept of saving and investment. The subject always reminds me of a cartoon depicting a drop-out son and his father, "Jesus saves" exclaims the fringe cultist. "At what rate of interest?" inquires his dad.

In recommending investments to children there are a number of fiscal considerations. First, any returns from capital supplied by the parents are, except for the first £5, taxable as the parents' own investment income.

In every other instance, children's income is regarded as their own. They can claim the full personal tax allowance. But the amount of a child's investment income can affect the parents' own child tax allowance, which this year is reduced by £1 for every £1

over £16 that the child under 18 receives in unearned income.

But this restraint will soon vanish, for the full introduction of the new child benefit entails the abolition of the tax allowance (except in special cases).

Since most children will have annual incomes below the level of the personal allowance (£245 at present) the simplest solution is to look for investments where the "interest" is paid gross, that is, without tax deducted at source.

Building society share accounts are tax paid by the society and the tax cannot be recovered by the non-tax paying investor. With all other forms of investment you can reclaim the tax but there is still the administrative inconvenience for parents and children.

Tax-free investments must extract a price if they are payable on the income. But the yields reflect this privilege, which is irrelevant to the non-taxpayer, and a higher return can often be found elsewhere. However, where the child's investment income stands to be lumped with the parents' a "tax-free" investment can be ideal, since it will not increase the parents' tax liability.

Children, like adults, have different investment needs. If the child is very young, with no need to draw out cash, or if he or she has enough in a current account on a building society to satisfy the odd crowding for a skateboard or pop record, it might be a good idea to look at higher yielding investments which "lock up" the money for a few years keeping the capital, its face value at least, for eventual use.

National Savings certificates can be bought in a child's name at any Post Office or bank in multiples of £5. After five years there is a tax free 4 per cent terminal bonus (the bonds are encashable any time). In the case of children under seven interest payments are automatically made into National Savings Bank account.

Building society term shares are another possibility, although tax paid and the deduction cannot be reclaimed by the non-taxpayer. Term shares are offered by the societies in order to attract more stable funds—the shortest term is two years, for which money the investor will usually collect an extra 1 per cent on top of the recommended investment rates.

For a four-year term, the longest available you can obtain is an extra 1 per cent. The differential can vary according to the societies' need for money; it has been as much as 12 per cent above the normal rate.

But an older child may want easy access to funds.

The National Savings Bank's ordinary account, which will accept deposits as little as £1 at a time, is suitable for the mini saver. The four clearing banks have a £1 minimum for deposits and they offer no interest on cash balances.

The NS ordinary account pays 5 per cent a year, gross. The first £70 of interest on an NS ordinary account is tax-free, so where accessibility and avoidance of aggregation are both important factors, this can be one answer.

The return on the NS investment account, where withdrawals are at one month's notice, is 5 per cent—twice the rate of return available from clearing house deposit accounts. The interest is paid gross; so it is recommended for children who will not be paying tax. But where the child's income is to be aggregated with the parents' the NS ordinary account might be preferable.

A building society account can provide instant access-

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Scent of cheaper money puts steam into gilts

Hopes of lower interest rates in the not too distant future and the sudden improvement in the industrial scene put gilt-edged stocks at the centre of the interest.

With some dealers expecting this downward trend in rates would start yesterday longer maturities quickly went five ticks ahead and managed to hold those levels in spite of an unchanged MLR. Further buying later in session took the gains further and by the close many stocks were a full point.

The best of the industrial leaders was again Beecham which was supported at 53p, Unilever rose 4p to 554p, but ICI lost 4p to 366p after news of a Price Commission robe into plans to raise oil carbon dioxide prices.

The EEC ruling against dual pricing hit Distillers to the tune of 5p to 177p even though the shares were off the bottom by the close. Elsewhere in the sector Irish Distillers was a firm exception rising 4p to 100p.

In bonds J. Lyons continued to go ahead after figures rising another 2p to 105p, but Lenroots fell 3p to 31p on a cut in earnings. Hillsards attracted support at 252p, a rise of 4p on the session.

With the worst now out and some talk of a possible bid for British A, another 6p to 94p, with Northern and Shell in demand, continuing 4p to 154p. But Gus "A" lost 2p to 144p as profits were taken after this week's profits.

Over in electricians Normand held firm at 45 after fixtures and GEC continued to rise with another 3p gained at 266p, a rise of 22p on the week. EMI rose a penny to 181p, but was still 33p over the week following the chairman's gloom.

Another feature of the exhaustion of the long "gap" which was reactivated in the middle of the week and, as expected, a new short "gap" was announced at 144p, which had held since our earlier in the week. Though "shorts" were, to some extent, subdued by the new stock they still managed rises of around a quarter point.

Many were taking of another cut in MLR before Christmas though the more conservative view was that the next movement is likely to be down rather than up. It is not likely to take pace for some weeks.

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Margaret Drummond

Pensions

Death benefits are of lively interest to most scheme members

Occupational pension schemes do not provide benefits only on retirement; they are also allowed to make payments on the death of a member. As in the case of retirement benefits, as taxation of retirement benefits or for that matter the principles of taxation in general. Pensions are taxed as the income of the person entitled to receive them; lump sums are not subject to income tax.

For most people joining a new employer, the prospect of retirement is a long way off and the amount of pension to be received is of only passing interest. Death benefits are therefore very often of much livelier interest to younger members of a pension scheme.

The majority of people are inclined to push into the back of their minds the prospect of leaving their wife and children as widow and orphans, but when faced with the question objectively they will normally consider the importance of providing for their family.

After all, in these days of extensive travel, accidents may befall anyone; and even crossing a busy street in a city centre may be a hazardous undertaking.

There are Island Revenue and statutory limits on the amount and form of death benefits under an approved pension scheme and on the way they can be paid.

There are still some older schemes where lump sums are not allowed at all, because they have not been brought within the rules for approval, but such schemes are few and will in any case have to be changed.

There is, however, the additional problem of capital transfer tax, which has now replaced estate duty. While it is theoretically possible to ensure that benefits payable on death under an approved pension scheme are free of this tax, too, and the position is less clear-cut in that it depends in some circumstances on the way in which the legal rules of the scheme are drafted.

The improvement compared with the old estate duty rules is that benefits paid to a widow or widower are free of tax in all circumstances. Benefits paid to anyone else are free of tax, in broad terms unless the scheme is so worded that it is entitled to receive them (and they are not left to the widow or widower) or the member had the power to say to whom they were to be paid.

The form of the benefit and the conditions of payment are to be considered in the light of these taxation provisions.

Lump sums are payable partly because they carry a clear income tax advantage. They are normally payable under conditions which ensure that there is no capital transfer tax liability.

This is not, however, the only consideration in deciding the structure of the scheme; sufficient flexibility is normally provided to look after the interests of dependents other than lawful wives in situations such as arise from divorce or separation, dependent husbands, common law wives and mistresses.

I shall look in my next few articles at the ways in which schemes try to achieve these arrangements, as well as the more conventional, one of a widow, and the extent to which they succeed.

Eric Brunet

The schemes under the approved code are normally applied are allowed to provide a lump sum payment of up to four times the annual rate of pay of a member who dies while still in service. No lump sum may normally be paid on the death of a pensioner.

The "final pay" on which the maximum may be based is more flexibly defined than for purposes of retirement benefits.

The rate of pay at the date of death may be used and there are no special requirements to take the average over several years in the case of controlling directors.

On the other hand, to allow for cases where the earnings have reduced—possibly as a result of ill-health—the lump

sum based on "final pay" as defined for purposes of the retirement benefits. Limitations may be provided if it is greater.

The taxation of benefits on death follows the same principles as taxation of retirement benefits or for that matter the principles of taxation in general.

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This is not, however, the only consideration in deciding the structure of the scheme; sufficient flexibility is normally provided to look after the interests of dependents other than lawful wives in situations such as arise from divorce or separation, dependent husbands, common law wives and mistresses.

I shall look in my next few articles at the ways in which schemes try to achieve these arrangements, as well as the more conventional, one of a widow, and the extent to which they succeed.

Eric Brunet

Latest results

Company Int or Fins	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share pence	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Arlington Mtr. (I)	20.5(14.7)	9.4(5.3)	2.5(1.4)	1/2	—	(6.57)
NP Canada (Q)	—	—	—	15/1	—	(4.06)
Bentons Bros. (F)	5.9(5.8)	0.68(0.19)	0.44(0.09)	—	—	—
Catrite's (I)	16.1(12.4)	0.60(0.49)	1.01(1.0)	—	—	(2.0)
Celestial (I)	6.2(5.6)	0.41(0.24)	1.89(0.6)	—	—	—
E. & C. Davis (E)	—(—)	0.053(0.02)	4.06(2.09)	—	—	—
Friedman (F)	1.0(0.73)	0.70(0.25)	10.43(8.25)	2.81(1.8)	14/4	3.5(2.2)
Globe & Mail (F)	—(—)	0.001(0.01a)	3.41(2.74)	—	—	—
Glencairn Inv. (F)	—(—)	0.17(0.14)	1.17(1.45)	—	—	—
Grooteveld (F)	—(—)	—	—	14b(4b)	—	15b(3b)
Hallam Grp. (I)	4.4(6.5)	0.73(2.0a)	—(—)	—	—	—
Hartell Ingram (I)	4.0(3.9)	0.31(0.30)	—(—)	1.29(1.29)	9.1	(2.8)
Keystone Inv. (F)	—(—)	0.65(0.51)	—(—)	4.25(3.35)	6.2	6.0(4.8)
Macmillan Ldn. (I)	30.0(25.5)	0.63(0.58)	0.20(0.17)	—	16/1	—(2.7)
Marievale (F)	—(—)	0.031(0.003a)	—(—)	0.32(0.33)	25/1	—(1.1)
Mid-Sterl. Wtr. (E)	—(—)	0.56(0.51)	—(—)	—	—	—(2.5)
Normand Ec. (I)	—(—)	0.38(0.22)	2.7(1.5)	1.05(0.95)	31/1	—(2.5)
Stonehill (I)	6.7(7.5)	0.40(0.67)	3.48(5.78)	2.25(2.25)	6/4	—(6)
Trident Opt. (I)	5.0(4.9)	0.21(0.30)	4.78(3.27)	1.41(1.4)	10/2	—(3.2)
J. Woodhead (I)	25.0(15.2)	2.51(1.4)	15.10(10.3)	2.4(2.1)	—	—(6.8)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are not a loss. D. Cents. Includes capital repayment of Sc. d includes capital repayments of 10c.

BLACK DIAMONDS PENSIONS LIMITED

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The Offer for the Ordinary Shares of**THE BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED**

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at 3 p.m.

Arrangements have been made so that Ordinary Shareholders who have not yet accepted and who wish to do so can still accept by lodging their completed Forms of Acceptance and Transfer

at

any branch of Midland Bank Limited in England and Wales

or at

any branch of Clydesdale Bank Limited, as agent for Midland Bank Limited, in Scotland

by hand by 3 p.m., this Monday, 12th December, 1977
at the latest when the Offer expires.

Ordinary Shareholders who have mislaid their Forms of Acceptance and Transfer and who wish to accept may obtain additional Forms on request from any branch of Midland Bank Limited or Clydesdale Bank Limited.

Ordinary Shareholders who have already accepted need take no further action.

This statement has been issued by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Black Diamonds Pensions Limited. The Board of Black Diamonds Pensions Limited has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and all the Directors jointly and severally accept responsibility accordingly.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Good outturn seen after Lennons' 8pc interim dip

By Tony May

The supermarket price war has taken its toll at Lennons Group and pre-tax profits for the six months to October 1 are down 8 per cent to £741,000 on sales 20 per cent up at £30.5m. Mr Denis Lennon, the chairman, has no doubt that the group will have another successful year, so the board is paying an interim dividend of 6.5p against 8.5p gross.

He says that naturally the interim figures are not as good as he would like but he points out that additional interest has been paid, amounting to £94,000, on the forward buying of wine and spirits for Christmas. These charges will be more than offset by the resulting boost to margins in the second half.

At the annual meeting in August Mr Lennon said that the second half would see the group's turnover grow by 10 per cent and its operating departments would make their first contribution to Christmas profits. He admits that food retailing has faced.

Upturn at Cattle's Hldg despite spending dip

Despite poor conditions for consumer spending, check and credit trading group, Cattle's (Holdings) boosted profits in the half year to September 30.

On turnover up from £13.4m to £16.1m the group made a pre-tax profit of £108,000 against a previous £496,000. These results confirm the new trends established over the past 18 months, the chairman Mr Roy Waudby points out.

The increased cost of borrowing, coming at the same time as the pre-Christmas spending surge, historically, the period of peak demand for the group, will increase the costs of borrowings. However, these costs are unlikely to match last year

when interest rates were much higher.

Since the end of September, the group has bought the Grimsby branch operation of North British Supply for £250,000 and this has been the only significant acquisition so far this year, according to the chairman.

Early this year Provident Financial Group made an abortive £2m offer for Cattle's which runs the "Stockcheck" personal credit system.

Formation of the half year accounts has been provided in full but the chairman reports that the group is considering applying the new guidelines on deferred tax proposed.

Bardon Hill well on way to target

Bardon Hill, the Leicestershire-based quarrying, plant hire and civil engineer, reports pre-tax profits of £496,000 for the six months to September 30. Last year the group achieved an overall profit of £97,000 for the 12 months to March 31, 1977. The current period taken in Charles Gregory acquired just June.

Mr J. G. Tom, chairman, says that figures for the six months enable him to confirm the forecast made when the group joined M. J. H. Nightingale's over-the-counter market.

McLeod up to 25½p for Malayalam

McLeod Russel has raised its bid for Malayalam Plantations (Holdings) from 25p to 25½p a share, valuing the company at £6.9m. The bid was raised after McLeod increased its holding in the company from 29.39 per cent to 32.78 per cent by buying extra shares at 25½p.

Malayalam, which rejected the first offer as "inadequate", has yet to make an announcement on the revised terms as has Harrisons & Crosfield, which along with associates controls 23.64 per cent of the equity.

McLeod still maintains that the bid has little chance of success unless the Malayalam board recommends it because the remaining shareholders are mainly individuals rather than institutions.

Jump of 82pc at Giltspur

Over the first six months to September 30, Giltspur has pushed up pre-tax profits up 82 per cent to £1.05m and the board is confident that the improved profit trend will be maintained given a stable business climate. The interim advance was achieved on turnover up 10 per cent to £24.2m. Shareholders are to receive an interim dividend of 1.51p against 1.38p. With its main problem areas resolved, the group expected to do well this year.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
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The Over-the-Counter Market

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Nat Westminster	71%
Rossmoorster Acc's	71%
Sherley Trust	91%
TSB	7%
Williams and Glyn's	71%

*7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 4% up to £50,000. 5% over £50,000.

**7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 4% up to £50,000. 5% over £50,000.

7% up to £50,000.

7% over £50,000.



Stock Exchange Prices

Firm end to the account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Dec 30. § Contango Day, Jan 3. Settlement Day, Jan 11

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Also on page 3

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"Then they that feared the

Lord were given over to

an other and the LORD hearkened

not unto them."—Malachi 1: 16.

—

BIRTHS

MISTRESS OGLE, Meow Meow,

Lovely Tiger-Sun.

MARRIAGES

LOWE: BAGLEY.—On 5th December, to

John Bagley, Officer, Inc., son of

Mr and Mrs John Lowe, of

Woolton, Liverpool, Lancs.

CHARLES.—On December 5, at Queen

Mary's, Beaconsfield, Mr Niall

and Mrs. B. Charles, son of

LEWIS.—On December 5, (see above)

Peter Lewis—a daughter, Rose

Claro, a sister for Max.

COLIN.—BONDING

THOMPSON.—On December 10, 1977, at St. George's Church, London, Revd Canon Edward Thompson to Jessie Davidson.

BIRTHDAYS

MISTRESS OGLE, Meow Meow,

Lovely Tiger-Sun.

ANNIVERSARIES

BROWN.—On 5th December, to

John and Mrs. John Brown,

of 10, Lichfield Road, London, S.W.1.

CHARLES.—On December 5, at Queen

Mary's, Beaconsfield, Mr Niall

and Mrs. B. Charles, son of

LEWIS.—On December 5, (see above)

Peter Lewis—a daughter, Rose

Claro, a sister for Max.

COLIN.—BONDING

THOMPSON.—On December 10, 1977, at St. George's Church, London, Revd Canon Edward Thompson to Jessie Davidson.

ACROSS

1 What's the point in shouting? Emergencies? (6).

5 Slough offers facilities for these cures? (3-5).

9 Benutz and Knoblock's play often seen by the way? (6).

10 Tho' green, at heart a cannibal? (4).

11 Feast for the swineherd? Yes? (8).

12 Did a groovy break-in? (6).

13 Simple Simon's painter? (4).

15 What a crush ahead! (5-3).

16 Study to dance some day in exchange? (8).

19 Counteracted unemployment? That's not new? (4).

21 Highway fury at never getting to the beauty spot? (6).

22 Peacehaven apartment block? (6).

23 Grace initially embraces, for example, Silas? (4).

26 He can admit to a certain exclusiveness? (4-6).

27 Quince so to speak? (3).

28 Thomas the take-a-look playwright? (6).

DOWN

2 There is a single-horn variety? (5).

3 Sauna or eliminating race won by Stephenson? (5-4).

4 Sauna change into their best clothes? (6).

DEATHS

SAUNDERS.—On December 5th, at a nursing home in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, Mr. John Alfred Saunders, 76, widower of Kathleen Grace Barnes (nee Mathews), widow of Captain R. N. Funeral service will be held at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Holy Trinity Church, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, at 12.15 p.m. Flowers to Woods (Dorchester) 0207 574 0000.

ELMICK.—On December 5th, at his home in Blackmore, much loved grandfather and great-grandfather of three. In his 97th year, he died on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Blackmore, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Blackmore.

WHITE.—On December 5th, at his home in Chesham, his wife, Dorothy, 80, died on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

COLLINS.—On December 5th, at his home in Chesham, his wife, Dorothy, 80, died on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

TAYLOR.—The funeral of Mr John Taylor, 70, of Chesham, will be held at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

STEWART.—A service of thanksgiving for the late Mr. Alexander Stewart, of Chesham, will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

WESTON.—On December 5th, at his home in Chesham, his wife, Dorothy, 80, died on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

IN MEMORIAM

HORNIGOOD.—On December 5th, 1977, most loved and cherished relative, Mrs. Dorothy Hornigood, in her 80th year, passed away at the Catherdal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

COOPER.—On December 5th, 1977, Dorothy Cooper, 80, died at her home in Chesham, on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

FRASER.—On December 5th, 1977, Mrs. Mary Fraser, 80, died at her home in Chesham, on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

WHITE.—On December 5th, 1977, Mrs. Dorothy White, 80, died at her home in Chesham, on Tuesday, December 5th, at 1.30 p.m. Services will be held at the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham, on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1.30 p.m. Interment will be at the cemetery of St. Peter and St. Paul, Chesham.

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